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SWORD KILLER IS GIVEN 12 YEARS

by Pam Griffin

A TEENAGER from Oswestry was sentenced to 12 years in jail after a jury convicted him of killing a father-of-one with an ornamental sword.

Richard Reece had denied murdering 21-year-old Danny Jones during a fight in April this year.

After a two-week trial at Birmingham Crown Court, Reece, 19, was yesterday (Wednesday) cleared of murder but found guilty of manslaughter.

Richard Reece – guilty of manslaughter.

The weapon used by Richard Reece in the death of Danny Jones.

A victim impact statement read out in court by Mr Robert Price, the prosecutor, said Mr Jones' mother had described her life as having been "turned upside down, inside out and stamped on".

"However long Reece gets, one day he will walk back into his mother's arms. Danny and I will never have that again," she wrote.

"My heart has been ripped out and my family left devastated."

Following the verdict, Miss Rachel Brand, for Reece, said he was genuinely sorry about what had happened.

"As soon as it had happened he was overwhelmed with an immense feeling of regret," she said.

"He hopes that Danny Jones' family will come to accept that that was a genuine feeling."

Devastating

Judge Melbourne Inman QC told Reece that he would serve at least half of his sentence before being considered for release on licence.

"Nothing you or I can say will bring back Danny Jones to life,"he told Reece.

"Danny Jones was only 21 when he died. He obviously, as you do, had his life ahead of him.

"I've heard of the devastating effect that his death has had on his mother Samantha and the terrible sense of loss and emptiness she now feels."

After the trial, Martin Lindop, sector crown prosecutor from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, said: "This was an extremely tragic case.

"What should have been a pleasant evening with a few friends enjoying some drinks has ended with a young man being stabbed to death and losing his life.

"Our thoughts are today with the family and friends of Danny Jones and we hope that today's verdict can bring some closure to their loss."

● Decision – Turn to page 3

Organisers lining up big names for festival

TWO famous faces have been lined up to appear at next year's Oswestry's Literary Festival.

Frank Cottrell Boyce, novelist, soap writer and the co-writer for the award-winning London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony will be the patron of Oswestry LitFest and will join in some of the events over the 10-day festival in March.

Former BBC journalist and MP Martin Bell will host the inaugural Wilfred Owen lecture at the festival, which will run from March 14 to 23.

The former BBC foreign correspondent will deliver the landmark lecture on what would have been war poet Wilfred Owen's 121st birthday on March 18, looking at conflict and communication. He will donate his appearance fee to the UNICEF charity.

"I am looking forward to it immensely," said Mr Bell.

Other writers and media experts will appear at next year's festival, the fifth to be held in the town. Organisers aims to celebrate the power of the word, whether it is written, spoken or sung.

Festival director John Waine said he was delighted that Mr Cottrell Boyce had agreed to be the festival's patron. He said: "He is a true friend to Oswestry and our LitFest. He opened Oswestry Library in 2008 and returned to appear in Litfest in 2012."

Incubator is on helicopter

A LIFE-SAVING incubator has been installed on the Welshpool based Wales Air Ambulance to help seriously ill infants receive critical care.

The helicopter is one of the three in Wales which have been given the incubators – known as "babypods" – to help save precious time in a paediatric emergencies.

The Wales Air Ambulance charity airlifts about 400 children each year from its bases in Welshpool, Swansea and Caernarfon.

● Saving – See Page 10

10 years of walking bus

Pupils and school staff members celebrate with walking bus volunteers and Sustrans Bike It Travel Shropshire representatives.

A WALKING bus which was one of the the first of its kind in the county has celebrated its 10th anniversary this week.

Weston Rhyn Primary School's walking bus currently takes 11 children to school three times a week following a route through the centre of the village near Oswestry.

The walking bus is led by 'driver' Karen Peate, a teaching assistant at the school, with 'conductors' Paul Edge and Rachel Sinclaire, whose children use the service.

Mrs Peate was involved in setting up the bus 10 years ago as a way of trying to cut the parking problems around the school.

"It's an ongoing problem in the village that it's bad for parking outside the school. The parents park on the main road outside school," she said. "The walking bus was an initiative started by Shropshire County Council and they set up some walking buses in Shrewsbury. They suggested it to us, we suggested it to the parents, and we started with six children 10 years ago."

During the year the "passengers" take part in seasonal activities on the way to school, including holding an Easter bonnet parade, Christmas hat competition, and singing songs they have learned for special assemblies.

The bus route starts in Albert Square, about half a mile from the school, and follows the main road, Station Road, picking up children along the route.

"At the moment we've got 11 children, but we have had up to 24," Mrs Peate said.

"The children enjoy the walk time. Most of them start when they're in the lower classes - we've got one Reception pupil in the bus at the moment."

Skull bone found in wood sent for tests

CARBON dating will be carried out on what is believed to be part of a human skull found in woodland at an Oswestry beauty spot.

The skull was discovered by a dog during a pheasant shoot on the Sweeney Estate.

Police have continued searches of the scene at Sweeney Mountain, although they said that no other bones have been discovered to date.

The remains have been sent to forensic laboratories to be carbon dated.

Detective Inspector Mark Bellamy said it is likely to be several weeks before the results are known.

He said: "It appears to be part of a human skull, believed to be that of an adult male. It is possibly many years old but until tests have been carried out we cannot be sure.

"A pathologist will also examine the remains and an anthropologist is assisting.

"We will be carrying out further searches of the area to establish if there are any other skeletal remains."

The Shropshire coroner, Mr John Ellery has been informed.

Beaters were assisting at the shoot on Saturday, sending their dogs into the woodland to retrieve pheasants that had been hit.

But instead of bringing back a bird, one of the dogs emerged with the bones.

Man held in abuse inquiry

A 60-YEAR-OLD man from Oswestry has been arrested on suspicion of offences of child cruelty by detectives investigating historical sex abuse in the care system in North Wales.

Officers from the National Crime Agency say the man, from Oswestry, was arrested over offences alleged to have taken place against three boys, between 1978 and 1984, when they were aged between 15 and 16-years-old.

The arrest forms part of Operation Pallial.

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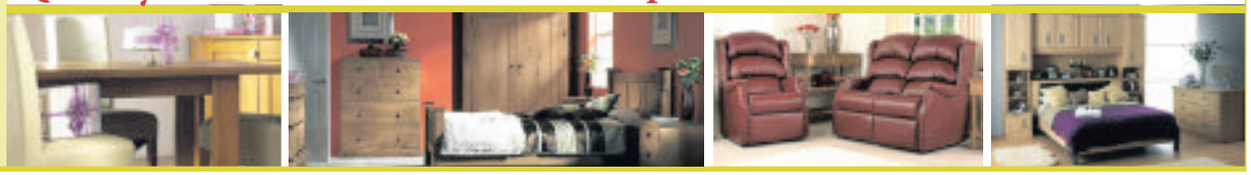

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Bad weather plays havoc with firework festivities

by Graham Breeze

WET and windy weather played havoc with planned firework festivities in and around Oswestry.

While Oswestry's charity fireworks party went ahead on Saturday night the town's annual lantern parade was abandoned and Welshpool's big fireworks display had to be cancelled on Friday.

The display will not be rescheduled this week and may not be held at all. The event, which was expected to attract over 2,000 people last Saturday night to Maesydre, was postponed the previous evening with grim weather forecasted.

And the Town Council has issued a statement saying they will not reschedule this week.

Town clerk Robert Robinson explained: "The fireworks display was cancelled due to the poor weather. The event will not be rescheduled in the next week as the Remembrance events now commence.

"The council will consider when to hold the event, if at all, this year over the next week or so. We will update people on any new date when it is known."

A planned lantern parade through Oswestry from Festival Square organised by Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club and the Treble Niners had to be cancelled on safety grounds due to the weather.

Numbers may have been down but still about 1,000 people turned out to see the town's 25th anniversary bonfire and fireworks display – enough to ensure the event is safe for future years.

Organised by Oswestry Town Council and the Treble Niners, over the years it has raised over £40,000 for good causes.

Leader of the Treble Niners Mike Wilkinson, said: "It was a shame about the weather because it was one of the best display's we've ever had – because it was our 25th anniversary we got an electronic display which made it all the more spectacular.

"It started raining about half way through, but the people stayed and everyone showed their appreciation. The Treble Niners are grateful to the people of Oswestry for showing their support.

"Unfortunately we didn't make much money for charity this year, but it was enough to keep it afloat."

Lantern parade in Oswestry was called off due to bad weather but organisers and volunteers light torches anyway. .

Therapy dog is in the final

A BLACK Labrador is in the running for national recognition for its work with life-limited children in Oswestry.

Nine-year-old Bill has been named one of six finalists in a national competition to find the HiLife Pet as Therapy Dog of the Year 2013/14.

Staff from Hope House Children's Hospice nominated their "gentle giant" for the competition, saying they never have the Monday morning blues when they know he is visiting.

Owner Val Howell, from Oswestry, said: "When I met Bill, I knew he'd make a perfect PAT dog. He's so calm and he loves being stroked, hugged and patted. He's a very generous dog."

The winner will be announced at Crufts 2014 on March 8. The winning dog will scoop £500 plus a three month supply of HiLife dog food. The runners up will win £100 and one month's supply.

To vote for Bill, email **win@yours.co.uk**, and write "I vote for Bill" as the subject of the email.

The competition will close on December 27.

Stranded worker causes a stir

A WORKER became stranded high in the sky when a cherry picker he was in became stuck while fully extended.

The worker, who has not been named, was behind Welshpool Magistrates Court when he rose above the buildings along Severn Street at about 9.30am last Friday where he remained for about an hour.

He was clearing leaves from the gutter at the court building, Mansion House, when the cherry picker began rising on its own.

Passers-by were seen taking pictures of the worker, who was unharmed, and he was back on the ground by 10.45am.

Gary Brannigan, who saw the worker stuck in the air, said: "It caused quite a stir in the town, especially as it was pouring with rain.

"People were taking photographs on their mobile phones and pointing and he seemed to be on his mobile phone for quite some time sorting his release.

"Then the fire brigade turned up, lowered him and he was soon away."

NEWS

Father of one wrote online of turning his life around

Danny Jones

DANNY Jones grew up in Chirk and attended Dinas Bran Secondary School in Llangollen. In 2009, he became a father to a baby boy on whom he doted.

His Facebook page showed photos of him cuddling his son as a baby and taking him on trips to Ellesmere and to the playground as he grew.

He went through a difficult phase as a teenager with no GCSEs to his name.

But after attending a business course at Walford and North Shropshire College in 2012, he began enjoying life again.

His interests included his football team, Manchester United, and his black Peugeot 206.

And apart from his son, his biggest pride was winning an apprenticeship with Woodhead Consultancy of Oswestry.

Staff at the family firm were shocked and saddened by his death. He had worked at its offices for just three weeks.

In a statement the firm said: "He was a lovely lad, eager and keen to work. We were very pleased with him as a member of the team and everyone here is very sad and very shocked."

The value to which he place his apprenticeship was summed up in Mr Jones' facebook status written in March 27.

He wrote: "Two years ago I had no GCSEs or qualifications whatsoever. I went back to college and kept out of trouble.

"But to be an accountant was what I wanted to do since I was young so I had a proper career. Today I've been offered an apprenticeship that will start around June.

"So this proves no matter what you've done, have or don't have, its never too late.

"So happy I can make my son and my family proud of me."

Split-second decision cost trainee accountant his life

A SPLIT second decision to pick up an ornamental sword changed the course of a fist fight and cost Danny Jones his life and Richard Reece his freedom.

In March this year Danny Jones told his friends how much he had turned his life around.

He was looking forward to seeing his young son again and had just landed an apprenticeship with an accountancy firm.

In a touching status on Facebook the 21-year-old wrote: "This proves no matter what you've done, have or don't have, it's never too late. So happy I can make my son and my family proud of me."

But a month later Mr Jones was dead, killed by a single stab wound to his stomach.

The wound had been inflicted by an ornamental sword wielded by Richard Reece after the pair got into a fight in an alleyway in Oswestry.

Reece, who was studying a level three motor mechanic course at Walford & North Shropshire College, was 18 when he got into the fight with Mr Jones on April 24.

Knife

The fight had started shortly after 8pm after Mr Jones and Reece argued at Reece's home in Lord Street.

During his trial Reece maintained that he had not intended to stab Danny.

But he never shied away from the fact that he had been holding the ornamental sword when the other man was fatally injured.

"I knew I was holding that knife when Danny got injured and I felt responsible and that it was my doing," he said in the witness box.

He told the jury that after he realised what had happened he had thought about killing himself rather than turning himself in to the police.

Reece's girlfriend, Zoe Pallatina told the jury the fight began when Mr Jones overheard a conversation between Reece and another friend, Ian Gill.

"Danny had taken offence at something and thought Ricky was talking about his son," she said. "Ricky was saying he hadn't said anything about Danny's son.

"Danny was getting quite aggressive. He wouldn't calm down and wanted Ricky to go outside with him. I think Ricky thought everything would be fine if he did."

by Pam Griffin

But the trial heard that when Reece went outside, Mr Jones pushed him to the floor.

Reece said he was angry at having been attacked, but refused to retaliate directly.

He said: "I went to the car park to take it out on an object and not on a person."

Once he reached the car park, off Oak Street, he climbed on to the roof of Mr Jones' black Peugeot 206 and jumped on it, denting it.

He admitted that he knew the car was Mr Jones' prized possession.

"He'd just passed his test. It was his pride and joy," he said.

When Mr Jones followed him to the car park and saw the damage to his car, the fight escalated with Mr Jones chasing Reece around the car park and the pair exchanging blows for about 10 minutes.

Witnesses said they saw Mr Jones sit down on the floor to take a rest after a while, at which point Reece ran off towards his home.

He returned a moment later carrying the ornamental sword which inflicted the fatal stab wound.

Scare

Reece said: "I'd got a tool kit in the house and I was just looking for anything to get Danny to stop chasing me.

"The knife was in the garden because I'd been showing it to Danny earlier. I just picked it up."

"I knew the blade of the knife was blunt. I just wanted something to scare Danny.

"I don't remember feeling the knife go in or seeing it, I just remember this sudden silence.

"I looked at Danny and he was wounded," he said.

Mr Jones died of the stab wound, which severed two major blood vessels, and Reece was arrested and charged with his murder after turning himself in to police.

Danny Jones's Peugeot 206

Police tape at the passage between numbers 2 and 4 Lord Street, next to Oak Street car park. *Picture: Bob Greaves.*

NEWS in brief

Fashions on show at church event

A SELECTION of clothes from retailers including Next, M&S, New Look, River Island and Dorothy Perkins will be on special offer at a discounted fashion show in Oswestry this weekend.

SOS Fashion Show will be returning to Hope Church, Laburnum Drive, on Saturday after a successful first event last year.

During the evening, which starts at 7.30pm, a range of current and seasonal clothes from a wide range of high street shops will be available to buy at 50 to 70 per cent reduced prices.

Tickets are £5. Contact VJ Lonsdale on 07964 726 407 or email **vj@hopechurchoswestry.org.uk** for more info or to book.

Cheese and wine to aid band funds

A CHEESE and wine evening will be held in support of the North Powys Youth Orchestra, concert band and string team next month.

The event will be held at Welshpool High School on December 6 at 7pm.

Along with food and wine, the music will be provided by the North Powys Youth Orchestra conducted by Tim Cronin; North Powys Concert Band conducted by Linda Harlow; and the string team conducted by Mark Purdy. Tickets are £7 for adults and £3 for children and can be reserved by calling (01691) 670198.

Story of racing rivals on the bill

FORMULA One biopic Rush will be screened at the Attfield Theatre, Oswestry Guildhall, on Saturday at 7.30pm.

The film tells the story of the rivalry between racing stars Niki Lauda and James Hunt in 1976. Tickets cost £5 adults and £3 under 16s. To book call 0845 2500517.

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NEWS

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Russell George AM, centre, at Sainsbury's in Welshpool. *Picture: Ian Sheppard.*

Store staff to support charity

A SERIES of fundraising events will be held in aid of a charity which helps people suffering with mental health problems.

Sainsbury's in Welshpool said it has already raised more than £600 for the Ponthafren Association, with fancy dress days, book sales and music events.

Staff said more events will be held until next summer in aid of the charity which is based in Newtown, but helps people from across Mid Wales.

The store also collects long-life grocery items and sends them weekly to the Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre which helps families in need with food parcels.

The branch was visited by Russell George, Montgomeryshire AM, to see how staff are involved. Mark Wyles, store manager, said: "The Ponthafren Association has been adopted to be the store's charity partner for the year, following a vote by customers.

"Staff have so far helped raise more than £600 through book sales, fancy dress days in store and a music day.

"We are also thanking customers for their support of our Active Kids scheme, as since 2005 £119,732 worth of equipment and experiences has gone to nurseries, schools, scout and guide groups and sport groups in Powys.

Mr George added: "I know the Active Kids scheme provides thousands of pieces of equipment to help children in Powys."

Hall and arts group among projects given share of cash

A MARKET hall and a new arts group were among the causes handed cash earmarked to help fund community projects in the area.

by Graham Breeze

Ellesmere Area Local Joint Committee dished out grants totalling £2,450 following its latest meeting.

Prior to the meeting at Welsh Frankton Village Hall the committee invited local community and voluntary groups to apply for a share of funding.

The LJC has an annual budget of more than £15,000 set aside for initiatives which will benefit community life.

All Together Ellesmere was awarded £1,320 to purchase office equipment and help promote activities and events in the town during 2014.

The application was made by the group to enable it to have dedicated equipment in the newly created office at Ellesmere Market Hall.

Goodwill

Previously, a part-time contracted employee relied on people's goodwill to complete office duties.

The group has also volunteered to keep information on the visitor sign up-to-date.

The committee also awarded £640 to the Friends of Ellesmere Market Hall to enable the group to purchase 50 folding chairs and a trolley for the market hall.

The group was set up in 2007 to support and promote a suitable refurbishment of the market hall.

Volunteers had already been providing crockery and cutlery, and now wish to assist All Together Ellesmere with seating.

At last week's meeting newly created arts group Fizzgigs was handed £200 by the committee.

It will be used to enable the group, formerly the Welshampton Bonfire Committee, to run workshops to make lanterns.

These will then be used during the Ellesmere Winter Festival, which is due to take place on November 29.

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council received £290 towards creating a walking leaflet.

Meanwhile, three other applications of funding were turned down by the committee.

Refused

Members of the Cockshutt Millennium Hall group were refused funding to purchase and install five parking space barriers. Oswestry and District Arts Association and Oswestry and District Sports Association also had applications for funding turned down.

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NEWS 01691 668094

Fewer people seek help for drug and alcohol problems

THE number of people seeking treatment for drug and alcohol misuse in Mid Wales has fallen by almost 100 in the past year.

Statistics released by Substance Misuse Wales show 99 fewer individuals (16.7 per cent) were referred for treatment in Powys in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12.

The Welsh Assembly said the news was particularly pleasing as it has invested £50 million into a 10-year strategy to tackle drug and alcohol misuse.

by Graham Breeze

The figures show that in 2011/12, 364 individuals were referred for alcohol treatment in Powys and 226 for drugs, which fell in 2012/13 to 309 for alcohol and 182 for drugs.

Mark Drakeford, health minister, said the figures still show that drug and alcohol abuse remains a problem in Wales.

He said he is disappointed that Westminster did not bring in minimum pricing.

He said: "Welsh Government investment of £50m, alongside a 10-year strategy for tackling substance misuse, is saving and improving lives.

"While I welcome the fall in the number of deaths of people in Wales due to drug misuse, every death is a tragedy for those involved. We know that the majority of these deaths are preventable so we will continue with our efforts to tackle misuse through our education and prevention initiatives. The figures show that alcohol misuse remains a real problem in Wales. I was disappointed with the UK Government's failure to take action on minimum unit pricing and am determined to use all the policy levers available to us in Wales to tackle alcohol misuse, including legislation where there is scope to do so."

Mr Drakeford said waiting times for people seeking treatment for drug and alcohol misuse has also fallen, while Wales-wide deaths relating to drug and alcohol issues has fallen from 152 in 2010 to 137 in 2011 and 131 in 2012.

Andrew Misell, director of Alcohol Concern Cymru, cautiously welcomed the figures, saying: "If these figures are part of a long term-trend, then this is very welcome. However, these new figures mean we are still seeing more than 13,000 people a year in Wales."

Sunday brunch fundraiser for hospice

From left Lindsay Chaplin of Willow Gallery, Matt Morris and Louisa Jones of Little Red Bird with Lynsey Kilvert of Hope House. *Picture: Ed Bagnall.*

A LAZY Sunday brunch with musical entertainment will be put on by Oswestry Chamber of Commerce later this month.

Brunch will be served at the Willow Gallery in Willow Street on November 17 and will be accompanied by the vocal harmonies of Little Red Bird.

The event is part of a number planned by the Chamber as part of its Hope House Corporate Challenge.

Chamber chairwoman Heather Noble said: "The Hope House Corporate Challenge not only raises funds for the amazing facility we have in our community but is also a fantastic opportunity for Chamber members to pull together, have some fun and do some good work too.

"This is the first event in our Corporate Challenge fundraising and so the clock starts ticking to see how much money we can raise in the time allowed. I'm certainly looking forward to a relaxed Sunday brunch with the great and good of Oswestry and surrounds."

Food is served from 11am-2pm, with a choice of three brunches on offer, prepared by Lindsay from the Willow Eatery. Tickets are £15 to include a glass of bucks fizz or orange juice with the meal.

They are available from Rowanthorn, Booka, The Willow Eatery or by calling Heather on (01691) 700800.

To find out more contact Hope House on (01691) 671671.

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FEATURES & COMMENT

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

EVER stopped to wonder how related adverts start appearing alongside your e-mails?

It's no mystery. Google are clearly tracking everyone's private mail in a system called "Ad Targeting" and this week the gloves came off when rivals Microsoft accused Google of using private details for profit.

The software giant has launched an advertising campaign warning people that Google reads every email sent by users, scanning for key words to target advertising.

A survey carried out by Microsoft found that 83 per cent of people felt that this was an invasion of privacy, while 93 per cent thought there should be an 'opt out' option for Gmail users.

And the business is really getting dirty with Microsoft setting up a website – **keepyouremailprivate.com** – to tell people how Google makes money from emails, describing the actions as an "invasion of privacy."

It says Google goes through every Gmail sent or received, looking for keywords so they can target users with paid ads. And there's no way to opt out.

Microsoft reveal that an email from a user informing their friend they have had to put their cat down included adverts for catteries and catnip products, and another including the word 'Caribbean' features adverts for holiday firms.

Which would explain why my e-mails about my golfing holiday attract hits from all the holiday firms almost instantly.

Google say "Ad Targeting" is fully automated and no humans read your email or Google Account information in order to show you advertisements or related information – well they would say that wouldn't they.

That doesn't disguise the fact that they could read private mail; have the technology to read private mail and might be overcome by temptation.

❑❑❑❑

DOMINOES is a pretty serious affair in Welshpool so you can imagine my embarrassment this week when "knocking" when holding a domino which I could have played.

For this "serious rule infringement" I was sent back to the start of the marking board much to the amusement of the opposing team and the anger of my long-suffering team captain.

It's a very rare event in the world of league dominoes and one that I won't be left to forget for a while.

But amazingly my opponent, Geoffrey "Gakker" Spears, committed the same offence a few minutes later allowing me to pull off a shock victory.

Might be time to get the archives out to find out if this ever happened twice in the same match before. I knew I'd make the Guinness Book Of Records one day.

A truck mounts the pavement just behind two pedestrians.

The Penrhos Arms Pub which has been closed and has planning permission for houses, its car park had been used by some parents dropping their children off at school.

School parking chaos sparks accident fears

Mike Budd from Whittington.

People in Whittington are worried about traffic mounting the pavement in Station Road

SUE AUSTIN reports

Two cars mount the pavement near pedestrians to avoid a bus. *Pictures: Ian Sheppard.*

THE main road through a village has become gridlocked during the school run after parents were prevented from using a pub car park – sparking fears of a serious accident.

Parents have started parking on the side of Station Road in Whittington, near Oswestry, to drop their children off at the village's primary school.

It has caused the road to become partially blocked at the start and end of the school day, with large buses and passing traffic having to mount the pavement to get past the parked cars.

The problem has developed after the car park at the closed Penrhos Arms pub nearby – which had previously been used as an unofficial drop-off site by parents – was closed to the public.

Now headteacher Sean Sibley has appealed for parents not to park on the road or pavements, and said alternative car parks have been made available at Whittington Castle and the Olde Boote Inn.

He said he feared there could be a serious accident unless people stopped parking on the main road.

Several vehicles were seen mounting the pavements along Station Road this week as children returned to school following the half-term break because of the cars parked nose to tail along one side of the road.

Developers who own the Penrhos Arms site say the car park should never have been used by parents and put problems in the village down to "inconsiderate parking". Mr Sibley said: "We urge parents not to park on the pavements outside school as this is causing serious traffic congestion and is preventing pedestrians from using the pavement, forcing them to use the road.

"Sue Ellis from the castle and the landlord from the Olde Boote Inn have very kindly offered parents the use of their car parks before and after school.

Accident

"In the interests of everyone's health and safety we are asking parents to use those car parks rather than risk a serious accident."

Mr Sibley said the school had a gold award for its traffic plan, which included a walking bus from the castle once a week.

He said: "We have had police community support officers visit the village to talk to parents and encourage them to park sensibly."

Parent Michael Budd said: "The area around the school is actually designated as a 20mph limit, although no-one takes a blind bit of notice of that.

"The road seems to be a particular magnet for HGVs at school run time, and, due to the number of cars already on the road, many of these use the pavements as additional road space, to at least ensure that the traffic keeps flowing."

A spokesman for Milford Developments, which owns the Penrhos, said: "There had never been an agreement that parents could use the car park. It was a private car park.

"The problem is inconsiderate parking."

CHART TOPPERS RAY SPILLER

Over 50 years ago The Music Charts started and this column will look back at the charts this week seven, 17, 27, 37 and 47 years ago

SEVEN YEARS AGO . . .2006

My Chemical Romance were at number one with Welcome To The Black Parade. They were an American band formed in 2001 and first entered the UK top 20 in 2004. Since this number one they have had two more singles in the top 10.

SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO...1996

The Spice Girls were at number one for the second time with Say You'll Be There. It was at this time that they adopted their nicknames thanks to Peter Lorraine, who interviewed the girls, renaming them Posh, Baby, Ginger, Scary, and Sporty. The video for the single was shot in The Mojave desert.

TWENTY SEVEN YEARS AGO...1986

EastEnders first hit the TV screens in February 1985 and one of its early stars was Nick Berry. Less than two years later Nick was at number one for three weeks with Every Loser Wins. In 1990 Nick left the soap to star in Heartbeat and in 1992 covered the show's theme tune, taking that single to number two in the charts.

THIRTY SEVEN YEARS AGO.....1976

Pussycat were at number one in the charts with Mississippi for four weeks. The band were a Dutch band consisting of (amongst others) three sisters. The single was a big hit elsewhere in Europe in 1975 but had to wait another year before it entered the UK charts. The band split up in the mid-1980s.

FORTY SEVEN YEARS AGO. . . 1966

The Four Tops, from Detroit, have been in showbiz for for 50 years but their only number one record was Reach Out I'll Be There. It held the top spot for three weeks and was also number one in the USA. The Tops were originally formed in 1953 as The Four Aims. The group were added to the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.

This week's best Question

Q. What was the highest UK chart position Pavarotti reached ?

Number two with Nessun Dorma

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As a result of my injury I have had to cancel my skiing holiday which was already paid for and I have also had to pay for 6 sessions of physiotherapy as I would have had to wait too long to get it on the NHS. Can I claim compensation from the Council for the money I lost on the holiday, and for the treatment costs?

A. As part of a claim for personal injuries you would be able to make a claim for all financial losses that you have incurred as a result of the Council's negligence and/or breach of legislation. This would be in addition to seeking compensation for the injury itself. It would therefore be possible to seek to recover the cost of your holiday and also your physiotherapy treatment from the Council in your personal injury claim.

In the first instance you would need to prove your case against the Council. The fact that you reported the defective footpath to the Council prior to your accident (and it was not repaired) is a good step in establishing liability against the Council for your accident. You should now contact a solicitor that specialises in personal injury claims in order that your potential claim can be fully assessed and steps can be taken to begin your claim as soon as possible.

Further information relating to this question is available from John Hulme, a Partner with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk. For Personal Injury and Family matters we offer a FREE legal diagnostic clinic every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation

LETTERS

01691 668094

Answer to our energy needs is shale gas

WITH the continuing seismic, avaricious and immoral increases in the cost of energy, surely people will now make a much more vigorous stand by lobbying their local MPs, and engulf their respective power companies with complaints.

It is an absurdity that, apart from these recent outrageous increases in energy costs, we will have, in the UK, the most mind-boggling energy policy, encompassing both nuclear power and wind farms – two of the most expensive means of generating electrical energy.

The recent announcement about the proposed £13 billion (I would dearly love to see the final bill) Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station, which will take 10 years to build, coupled with a guarantee of nearly double the current market price per megawatt/hour generated could be taken from the pages of 'Alice in Wonderland' and is utterly breathtaking.

We have come a long way since the introduction of nuclear power in the 1950s, when it was claimed the electricity generated would be too cheap to meter.

Laughing

It would appear the disasters at Fukushima, Three Mile Island and Chernobyl have been erased from history, and you do not have to be Sherlock Holmes to work out why they renamed Windscale.

The power company EDF will be laughing all the way to the French banks, and we must not overlook our Chinese friends who will have a foothold in UK energy generation, coupled with the well-known fact that they use trade as a means for "geopolitical domination."

It is also unbelievable that nobody is highlighting the billions of pounds needed for eventual decommissioning and the headache of safely disposing of nuclear waste.

The answer to our energy needs and economic salvation lies under our noses in the form of shale gas.

Do the main political parties in the UK not know that modern, efficient, relatively low emission gas-fired power stations can be built more cheaply and in under half the time of a nuclear plant?

I am awaiting the election where, hopefully, I will have option to vote for UKIP with their common sense views on power generation.

DAVE HASKELL
Cardigan

Back fight to help sufferers of polio

ON October 15, Andrew Love MP tabled early day motion 573 in the House of Commons on behalf of The British Polio Fellowship calling for the Department of Health to bring forward a strategy to address the needs of those living with Polio and Post Polio Syndrome (PPS) and to publicise those needs within the medical profession. Your support could be vital to making this a reality.

Mr Love tabled the motion on the eve of the first ever PPS Day held in Winchester on October 26 and with the 75th Anniversary of The Fellowship next year, recognising the practical support the charity still offers to those affected by polio and more recently (PPS). You can make a difference – not with money, but by urging your local MP to support this motion by writing them a letter saying that you support the motion and by asking them to add their name, if they have not already done so, to the growing list of signatures.

Website

As the motion makes clear, a greater understanding of PPS among healthcare professionals is essential not just for thousands of the charity's members, but also the 120,000 people in the UK today still living with PPS.

We hope many people throughout the country will support the motion. The charity's website at **www.britishpolio.org.uk** has details of how to contact your MP as well as having a template letter.

From people who survived polio only to face PPS in later life, to those in the Asian community living with polio – or medical professionals seeking information on PPS, on behalf of our members and all those living with polio and PPS, we thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

TED HILL, MBE
CEO
The British Polio Fellowship

Canoe fun on canal at St Martins in 1962

HOW many canoes can you see on this photo of the canal at St Martins? If you said two, then you're definitely wrong. The answer is four, or just possibly three if one of those vessels being paddled further down the canal is actually a rubble dinghy – it's a bit difficult to tell. This postcard was franked at Oswestry on July 10, 1962, and the message was: "Drizzling this morning but weather good so far. Air is marvellous. See you soon." *Picture: Ray Farlow*

Remember the times we spent chatting

REMEMBER the days we said good morning to each other, and such happy folk?

Now remain silent sending e-mails, texting, not a word is spoke,

In hospitals, doctors surgeries, in fact almost everywhere,

People with heads bowed, as into their iPhones they stare.

Have you noticed the joggers, and cyclist too,

Whiz by, more concerned with the music than you,

Miss you by inches, and without a smile,

Gallivant on like idiots, mile after mile.

Oh for the return of the butcher, baker and candlestick maker,

And goodbye to the supermarkets of today,

Having now achieved a monopoly,

Hiking prices we the consumer pay.

After all is said and done, nothing we can really do,

But if the British public were to speak out and unite,

Cause conglomerates who daily rip us off,

To lose price-fixing, if only they would fight.

DAVE COPPARD
Arddleen
Powys

Ruled by loud voice of minority

WE think we have democracy in Britain, it seems to me that we are often ruled by a small minority with a loud voice.

Take gas for instance, we are now reliant on supplies from Russia and other countries and the price is going through the roof. We discover vast quantities of gas just under our feet, so up jump the rent-a-mob protesters and shout 'leave it there you might endanger the environment'. There is a cost whatever we do, surely it can be tapped safely.

Nothing is risk free, what is certain is that unless we find alternative sources of energy the lights will go out.

Then I suppose the professional protesters will be happy sitting by their campfires in the woods.

RON JONES
Oswestry

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Dementia support survey aids carers

INCREASING numbers of readers will be caring for loved ones – over half will be juggling paid work with unpaid care. In particular we are seeing a rise in the number of working families supporting a loved one with dementia.

They may not instantly identify themselves as a 'carer'. It might be they are helping with shopping, housework, medication or getting about. Help can start at a few hours a week, but need can also suddenly creep up.

Care for an older loved one often comes at peak career age. Dementia care is a key issue for workforce retention, recruitment and resilience. We will examine key issues and support needs for employees caring for a loved one with dementia and ways in which employers and other parties can help. Visit **www.carersuk.org/dementiasurvey**

HELENA HERKLOTS
Carers UK

'Plebgate' is farce for Parliament

PARLIAMENT descended into farce when the Home Affairs Select Committee met to question officers over 'Plebgate', regarding their interpretation of the virtues truth, honesty and integrity. This is known as 'the pot calling the kettle black.'

In 2009 it was revealed that the vast majority of our MPs were totally ignorant of those virtues, or chose to ignore them. Four MPs and two peers went to jail and all but a tiny minority of the rest lost their reputations due to disgraceful greed, filling their pockets at the taxpayer's expense.

It is difficult to believe a Select Committee has been formed capable of recognising these virtues, much less able to analyse an officer's interpretation of them.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Thanks to ward staff

DURING May I was admitted twice to ward 21 at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. My care and treatment was fabulous.

I would just like to say a huge thank you to all the doctors, nurses and staff, without whose help and care, I don't think I would have survived.

So from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

JOHN STEVENS
Welshpool

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NEWS in brief

Three arrests after road stop-check

THREE people have been arrested on suspicion of drugs offences after a stop-check of a vehicle on a road through Mid Wales.

A 29-year-old woman, a 25-year-old woman and a 24-year-old man all from Ystradgynlais, Swansea, were arrested on suspicion of possessing drugs with intent to supply after being stopped on the A483 at Berriew, near Welshpool. The arrests were on October 17 and they have been bailed pending further inquiries. The man was charged with motoring offences and is due before Welshpool Magistrates on November 12.

Legion will hand out poppy wreaths

OSWESTRY Royal British Legion will be handing out poppy wreaths from the Unicorn pub in Unicorn Road in the town this year.

Organiser Roy Fry said anyone who had ordered a wreath should ring him on (01691) 679260.

"I can then arrange to be at the pub to hand over the wreaths," Mr Fry said.

Club meeting

THE Weston Rhyn Gardeners' Club will hold its next meeting on November 13 at the village Institute at 7.30pm. Margaret Evans will show members how to use flowers and foliage in Christmas decorations.

Talented town golfer is new pin-up for TV's Trilby Tour

A TALENTED Oswestry golfer has become an unlikely pin-up to help promote Europe's largest amateur TV golf series.

James Hampson, 26, from Oswestry, is a green keeper at Llanymynech Golf Club and has qualified for the finals of the Trilby Tour.

This national amateur tournament, in which all players wear trilby hats, will see qualifying rounds and a grand final taking place over several months, televised on Sky Sports.

Out of the 1,200 entrants, James has been chosen as the face for all the publicity material for the series, which attracts annual viewing figures of well over two million people.

by Graham Breeze

James, from Balmoral Crescent, plays off a handicap of two and has admitted he is enjoying being in the limelight – although he said the other green keepers at his club have been giving him some stick.

"I was really surprised that they picked me out for the promotional marketing as this is a prestigious national tournament," he said.

Success

"The status must have helped me this year as I reached the finals, where I received a golf bag with my name printed on – it's just a shame I didn't play well enough to win."

Llanymynech Golf Club course manager Allen Lewis said everyone at the club was proud of James's success. "Besides the obvious banter about his new 'pin-up' image, it is simply wonderful to see a young man with James's golfing talent being featured on television and we are all very proud of his dedication and achievements in the tournament, and for being a perfect role model for younger players," he said.

The tournament, promoted by tailors William Hunt of Savile Row, London, was founded seven years ago by William Hunt.

Mr Hunt said: "The Trilby Tour is about re-defining the game of golf and challenging yourself, being the only event to give amateurs a truly professional experience because in front of the crowds and cameras there is no place to hide."

James Hampson of Llanymynech Golf Club with his promotional poster for the Trilby Tour, in which all the players wear trilby hats.

Book edited by town resident

A NEW book edited by Oswestry resident Derek Williams was launched recently in the west Cornwall village of Leedstown, the home of its subject.

Richard G. Jenkin: A great son of Cornwall, is a series of essays about a man who, from the 1950s through to the 1990s, was at the very centre of Cornish cultural and political life and an important figure in the revival of Cornish consciousness.

As well as original essays about various aspects of his work for Cornwall and the wider Celtic world – two of them by Derek Williams – the book features examples of Jenkin's writings, both poetry and prose, and reminiscences and tributes from personal friends and colleagues.

The book launch was attended by almost 100 invited guests and featured readings of some of Jenkin's writings.

It is published by Francis Boutle Publishers, priced £12.50, and is available from Amazon and bookshops.

Villagers are given a say on its future

PEOPLE from the West Felton area can find out how they can get involved in helping to plan the future of their community at a meeting later this month.

The Five Perry Parishes local joint committee, which brings together Shropshire County Council and parish councils in villages south of Oswestry, will receive an update on the work of West Felton Parish Planning Group at a meeting on Wednesday at West Felton Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome to the 7pm meeting which will look at how all local communities can undertake or refresh their own parish plan, which is becoming increasingly more important in planning applications.

Shropshire Councillor Steve Charmley, committee chairman, said: "These meetings provide a chance for people to tell councillor's their views on local issues and services and to allow us to use our budget to benefit the local community."

Annual meeting

THE Cliffe Garden Club will hold its annual meeting tonight (Thursday) at The Victoria Rooms in Ruyton XI Towns at 7.30pm, followed by a talk by Peter Evans. Visitors and new members are welcome.

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Gipsy family fears being moved to a traveller site

A GIPSY family fear they will be targeted if they have to move from their current base to a nearby official site for travellers, a hearing has been told.

Jerry Berry described how his caravan was set on fire when he was living on a gipsy site near Wrexham a number of years ago. He said he and his family lost all their possessions. He wants to remain at a site the family has lived on for almost three years without planning permission.

Speaking at a planning inquiry in Oswestry, Mr Berry said he wanted to stay on the land on Henlle Lane, Gobowen, to give his children a good start in life.

by Sue Austin

He is appealing against the refusal of planning permission to change the use of the land to a private gipsy and traveller caravan site with one mobile home, one touring caravan, an amenity building, landscaping, car parking and drainage.

Dr Angus Murdoch, speaking for Mr Berry, said the current application was for one pitch, rather than the six put forward in a previous application. There was also a very detailed landscaping scheme.

Shortage

He said there was currently a shortage of gipsy and traveller sites in Shropshire, at least 61 fewer than had been promised by Shropshire Council.

Ian Kilby, for Shropshire Council, said Mr Berry and his family would be offered a place at the nearby Park Hall gipsy and traveller camp.

But Mr Berry said he feared bad feeling from other gipsy and traveller families if he moved there. "Myself and my family could be under threat," he said.

"We have had our caravan set on fire before while at another site and we lost everything. It has affected the children and I don't want to move them."

Speaking for businesses in the Henlle area, Clive Roberts said there had been a lot of business activity on the site recently.

An inspector's decision is now awaited.

Bite size business idea put to test

PUPILS from a girls' school have been putting their business skills to the test by designing and marketing their own sandwich.

The project was sparked by a competition run by Subway to design a six inch sub, with the winning product going on sale across the region and its designers winning £1,000 worth of Amazon vouchers.

Pupils at Moreton Hall School, near Oswestry, were asked to create a marketing campaign and business plan based on the theme of "heartfelt subs".

The team is now waiting to hear if its design has been shortlisted. If it has, the students will be asked to present their ideas to a panel of Subway experts in a Dragon's Den-style pitch later this year.

The six shortlisted schools will be announced tomorrow (Friday).

Artist will lead painting course

AN internationally acclaimed artist will be leading a two-day oil painting course in Oswestry in the coming weeks.

Max Baccanello will teach people the secret to painting at the Willow Gallery in Willow Street on November 23 and 24.

Mr Baccanello studied fine art in Florence, Italy, and has recently had work shortlisted for the Royal Society of Portrait painters exhibition in London.

During the course he will demonstrate a variety of portrait drawing and painting techniques, and participants will have the opportunity to create their own oil portrait painting on canvas.

A selection of materials will be provided, although if students have oil paints, brushes, an easel or a canvas they are encouraged to bring them along.

The course will run from 10.30am to 5pm and will cost £120 for two days. A £50 deposit is required on booking. Call the Willow Gallery on (01691) 657575 to book

Wine tasting charity event

A WINE tasting evening will be held at The Dining Rooms (formerly The Walls) in Oswestry on November 15, in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice.

For tickets or more information contact VJ Lonsdale on 07965 726 407 or by e-mail at **vj@purplefish.org.uk**

Cast caught up in rehearsals

From left are Peter Johnson, Paul Preece, Tonia Davies, David Evans and Sarah May Jones – cast members of the latest play by Guilsfield Amateur Dramatic Society.

CAST members are busily preparing for Guilsfield Amateur Dramatic Society's next production.

The society is staging Ray Cooney's Caught In The Net at Guilsfield Community Centre on November 27, 28, 29 and 30.

Tickets for the play can be purchased from Welshpool Jewellers, High Street, Welshpool or by calling Liz on (01938) 553379.

Police are urged to improve training

POLICE in Mid Wales need to improve training for custody officers to ensure detainees are properly cared for, a report states.

An inspection of Dyfed-Powys Police custody suites carried out by the HM Inspector of Constabulary also found that inspectors overseeing custody were often diverted from their work to other responsibilities.

A lack of custody sergeants and detention escort officers also poses risks for staff and detainees the report found.

The report was carried out by Nick Hardwick, chief inspector of prisons, and Dru Sharpling, HM Inspector of Constabulary and saw unannounced visits at cells in Newtown, Aberystwyth, Llanelli, Brecon and Haverfordwest police stations and two standby suites in Ammanford and Cardigan.

The report called for improved custody management and staff training to ensure good care of detainees, while the force said it has already begun addressing issues raised.

A joint statement from Mr Hardwick and Miss Sharpling said: "Dyfed-Powys Police needs to strengthen its management oversight of custody and improve staff training to ensure detainees are properly cared for."

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NEWS in brief

Electoral register forms are issued

VOTER registration forms are dropping through letterboxes in the Welshpool area and householders are being urged by the county council to respond as soon as possible.

Powys County Council's Electoral Registration Office is sending out canvass forms to all households in Powys to compile the electoral register.

Electoral Registration Officer Jeremy Patterson said: "If you haven't received your form or you want more information you can contact your local electoral registration office on (01597) 826202."

Bypass closed at night for works

MOTORISTS were facing disruption in the Welshpool area this week with the town's A483 bypass closed overnight for resurfacing work until Monday.

Motorists are being sent on a diversion through the town centre while the work is carried out, the Highways Agency said. The alternative route identified and signposted is Severn Street, Berriew Street and Berriew Road, the Agency said.

School craft fair

THE Friends of Forden School are holding a craft fair at The Cock Hotel on November 15,in aid of the school and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Life-saving pod incubators installed in air ambulances

LIFE-SAVING incubators have been installed on Wales Air Ambulances to help seriously ill infants receive critical care.

The helicopter based at Welshpool is one of the three in Wales which have been given the incubators – known as "babypods" – to help save precious time in a paediatric emergencies.

The Wales Air Ambulance charity airlifts about 400 children each year from its bases in Swansea, Caernarfon and Welshpool.

by Graham Breeze

The charity says the incubators will make a vital difference in treating and flying infants up to nine months old, which accounts for, on average, three missions each month.

Jason Williams, clinical and operations manager at the charity, said: "These 'flying incubators' will completely change the way babies receive urgent medical care.

Safer

"Previously, infants would be carried in the arms of a parent or paramedic, but the babypods provide a safer, warmer and calmer environment for the patient. Our highly skilled crews can also provide more advanced treatment in-flight, such as managing a difficult airway."

The pioneering equipment is made of lightweight, non-metallic materials, allowing it to be used in X-ray and MRI machines when babies reach hospital. The are lined with a shock-absorbing foam, ensuring minimal vibrations from aircraft engines, and have a transparent lid allowing parents and paramedics to constantly monitor infants.

Convulsions are the most common condition that the 150mph helicopters respond to in infants, but the crews attend a wide range of paediatric emergencies and can fly children to specialist centres throughout Wales and beyond.

Mr Williams said: "We're here for everyone in Wales and that includes running the national children's air ambulance. Children often need very specialist care and we can get them to the treatment they need, whether it's Noah's Ark Children's Hospital in Cardiff or Great Ormond Street in London."

Fundraising has been crucial to introducing the new kit, which costs £16,000 for each of the three airbases.

Wales Air Ambulance paramedics Ian Thomas and Jason Williams with the Babypod.

Trustees needed to help at charity

A CHARITY which supports people with mental health issues throughout Mid Wales is looking for trustees to help it in Welshpool.

The call has been made by officials at Ponthafren Association, which has a base in Welshpool, Newtown and Llanidloes.

The association helps people with mental health issues of any kind. It offers a wide range of courses and training from confidence building to IT skills.

Nicky Morris, association manager, said: "The organisation is growing and we are looking for new trustees to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of our current members and the population of Montgomeryshire.

"This is an exciting opportunity for people to get involved.

"If anyone would like an informal chat about what the role involves they can contact either myself or Jane Powell."

For more information call (01686) 621586.

Quiz night date

WELSHPOOL'S Friends of Cancer Research will stage a quiz night on November 14 at 7.30pm.

The quiz night will be held at Welshpool Bowling Club, Maesydre. To join in call (01938) 535000.

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WELSHPOOL NEWS 01691 668094

Tasty banger sizzles in sausage contest

John Langford and Christine Gethin of Langford's Welsh Sausage Co with their award winning sausages.

by Sue Austin

A TASTY banger that is also good for you has won an award in a national sausage of the year competition.

The Langford's Welsh Sausage Co Ltd in Welshpool has developed a low-fat, low-salt sausage that is enjoyed by hundreds of schoolchildren across Britain.

Now the sausage has been named runner-up in the competition at Butchers' Hall in London.

From more than 230 entries, the company's Gluten Free, Low-Salt, Low-Fat Pork Sausage and Lincolnshire sausage were two of just 15 that battled it out in the competition's grand finale, winning second and third place in their categories.

Business owner John Langford said: "To have two sausages go through to the final is superb. Our 'Gluten Free, Low Salt, Low Fat Pork Sausage' has been developed over the past three years. We have perfected the recipe so that it can be enjoyed by hundreds of school children across the country and fit in with the healthy eating agenda.

Category

The sausage was second in the Healthy Eating category, while Langford's Lincolnshire sausage took third prize in the Best Export category.

"We sell 500,000 of our Lincolnshire sausages every day," Mr Langford said.

"Competition organiser Tony Goodger, from the BPEX's foodservice company, said "Langford's Welsh Sausage Co Ltd did incredibly well – we were overwhelmed by the superb level of entries this year, so to have two sausages in the top 15 is a fantastic achievement.

"The competition is a great way to kick start the celebrations for this year's British Sausage Week and highlight the incredible variety of quality assured sausages available on menus in pubs, restaurants, cafés and schools.

"From innovative spicy varieties and fruit-filled specialities to traditional Cumberland and Lincolnshire sausages, we really have been delighted by the quality and range of sausages on offer."

Ambulance fundraiser

A FUNDRAISING dance in aid of the Wales Air Ambulance will be held near Welshpool.

The event will be held at Arddleen Community Centre, Arddleen, near Welshpool, on November 30 at 8pm.

Music will be provided by Jim Edwards. For further details call Jane Collins on (01686) 650351.

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NEWS in brief

Young invited to enter card contest

WELSHPOOL youngsters are being urged to design a Christmas card for Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon.

The winning entry in a region-wide design competition will be e-mailed to hundreds of people on Mr Salmon's Christmas list, including Prime Minister David Cameron.

Mr Salmon, who will mark his first anniversary as commissioner on November 22, said: "Strong schools are pivotal to strong communities across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys."

Dance date in aid of air ambulance

A FUNDRAISING dance in aid of the Wales Air Ambulance will be held near Welshpool.

The event will be held at Arddleen Community Centre, Arddleen, near Welshpool, on November 30 at 8pm.

Music will be provided by Jim Edwards and there will be a bar and raffle.

Admission is by ticket only and they cost £5 and are available by calling Jane Collins on (01686) 650351.

Art and craft fun

A CHILDREN'S art and craft afternoon will be held at Llanfair Caereinion Institute in Bridge Street from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday.

Farmer's pledge after plans for mega dairy win approval

A FARMER has pledged to work with the community after being given permission to build a 1,000-cow mega dairy near Welshpool.

Fraser Jones said he would take on board views from the community before building the dairy, which will help him more than triple the size of his herd, at Lower Leighton Farm in Leighton.

He said he had remained confident the project would get the backing of the Welsh Assembly's planning minister Carl Sargeant and said he had worked to allay fears over the impact on a nearby school, the potential for extra noise and smell, and the impact on the landscape.

by Andrew Morris

No timescale is yet in place, but Mr Jones said he would now start discussions with officials at Powys County Council.

He said: "I am very pleased with the result and I was always relatively confident that the decision makers in the case would see the merits of the application and allow it to go ahead.

"I have worked hard on addressing the concerns of people who were against it and am looking forward to taking the steps necessary now to getting going.

"I don't have a timescale on when work can start or anything like that, I need to speak to Powys County Council and find out where I can go from here.

"I also want to assure the local community and people in the village that I want to work with them and speak to them and take their opinions on everything on board. But yes, I am delighted with the outcome."

Councillor George Clare, of Leighton Community Council, said: "The community council was in favour of it by a majority vote. Personally I wasn't in favour and I'm a little bit disappointed with the approval, but I can understand the applicant's position, having been in farming myself.

"My main objection was the position of it next to the village school and hall, and I felt it to be detrimental to that, plus it would be a bit of an eyesore on the way in to the village."

Five awards up for grabs

A SEARCH is on to find people from the Welshpool area who make a real difference to the lives of the over 50s.

The older people's charity Age Cymru has launched the Age Cymru Awards 2013, and there are five awards up for grabs.

The Gwanwyn Award will be presented to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to Age Cymru's Gwanwyn festival of arts for the over 50s.

The My Home Life Cymru Award will go to a care home that recognises and epitomises the My Home Life Cymru's programme's ethos and approach.

The Active Ageing Award will be for someone who has made a significant improvement to a person's wellbeing.

The Campaigner of the Year Award will go to the person who has made a unique contribution to Age Cymru's campaigns.

The Local Delivery Award will be awarded to a worthy Age Cymru partner charity.

Firefighters' boost for hospice

WELSHPOOL firefighters have raised over £3,000 for Hope House at Morda. The firefighters and supporters carried out out a midnight walk, a spinathon and a concert at St Mary's Church featuring Treorchy Male Voice Choir in aid of Hope House and raised £3,508.97. Pictured are Steve Barrett, Chloe Evans (Hope House), Nia Turner (Hope House), Dave Challinor, Neil Godsell, Russell Pugh and Bryn Evans (crew manager).

Scammers targeting energy to take cash

ELDERLY residents in the Welshpool area are being warned to be on guard against scammers who have taken up to £200 from people claiming to save on their energy bills.

Age Cymru, Wales Trading Standards and the Energy Savings Trust Wales said it has received complaints from people in Mid Wales.

People are knocking on doors offering Green Deal assessments.

But the scammers are just pocketing the money.

Victoria Lloyd at Age Cymru, said: "Green Deal is a scheme run by the UK Government. It lets home and business owners make energy savings improvements to their properties without paying for the work upfront.

"You borrow the money you need to carry out that work from the UK Government and then pay it back in instalments through your energy bill."

Boiler warning

RESIDENTS living in Welshpool are being urged to check their boilers are working ahead of the winter.

Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service issued the plea after crews attended two carbon monoxide poisoning incidents.

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CEDAR COURT

SPECIALIST CARE FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

(L-R) Fiona Phillips with Timothy Morris, Carolyn Farmer and Amanda Morris

"A positive and homely environment in a care home is really determined by the aesthetics of the building as well as the quality of care provision itself", says Interior Design Specialist for Morris Care, Amanda Morris.

Having studied at Stirling University, the leading authority on dementia research, Amanda has made it her mission to utilise a pioneering new approach to interior design at Cedar Court, a new specialist care home in Audlem by quality care providers, Morris Care.

Commended by journalist, broadcaster and campaigner for dementia care, Fiona Phillips, the home combines specialist layouts with an appreciation for the challenges of caring.

As described by Amanda: "We know design has such a positive effect for people living with dementia and this, matched by the staff's commitment to providing high quality care, really does make Cedar Court a unique place to be. Residents can come and go as they please, spend time with our carers or make a cup of tea with others.

"The home provides specialist visual and sensory aspects including non-reflective glass, memory rooms and colour-coded doors throughout the home, to help those living with dementia feel safe and secure in their home. This is then coupled by an evolutionary approach to caring, which is headed by our Home Manager, Carolyn Farmer.

"Residents are helped to feel reassured in their own environment and encouraged to decide their own daily routines as they would in their own homes."

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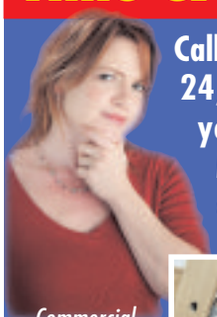

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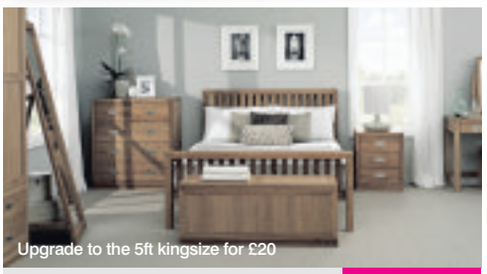

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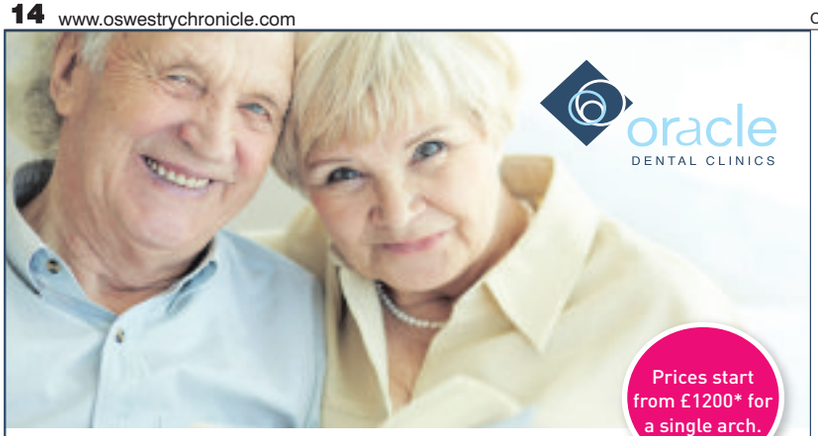

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WINTER BEAUTY

Tips on how to be your very own sleeping beauty

Be sure to get your beauty sleep.

WITH the clocks going back to signal winter's imminent arrival, we're entering a new phase of sleep.

Darker mornings are creeping in, making groggy wake-up calls the norm until spring.

"Sleep is affected by melatonin levels, which in turn is affected by light and darkness, so the seasonal change causes all sorts of disruption to the body," says Dick Middleton, technical director for Schwabe herbal remedies.

But if you can get your optimum amount of sleep, you'll set yourself up for a recharged and revived new dawn.

Advertisement feature

With the restorative beauty sleep fairies getting to work overnight, there's more to pillow time than meets the eye.

If you're a sleep under-achiever, stress and anxiety are often to blame when it comes to disturbed nights. One in five people experience difficulty sleeping, according to **Patient.co.uk**, and 70 per cent of those are women.

"Sleep is not a passive process – you need to respect it and learn how to do it as a skill," says sleep expert Kathleen McGrath. Besides bulging eye bags, a bad night's sleep can also start to manifest itself through a tired-out complexion.

"A decline in skin quality can be evident if you're deprived of sleep for more than one or two nights," explains McGrath.

Don't clock-watch and panic. "You may not necessarily need eight hours sleep a night – it's really what works for you," McGrath assures.

Herbal supplements can help but need to be taken daily for between two and four weeks before you really see the sleep-inducing effects.

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WINTER BEAUTY

Beauty salon has new name and new boss

Acrylic nails are a speciality at The Beauty Lounge in Church Street, Welshpool.

A BEAUTICIAN'S in Welshpool has a new name and is under new management.

Julia Cork is managing newly-named "The Beauty Lounge" in Church Street.

Julia trained in hair and beauty in Shrewsbury in 2007 before going on to work in top hair and beauty salons such as Toni and Guy, before moving to Cyprus.

While living in Cyprus Julia was a self-employed beautician working at Army bases. She also specialised in bridal services, working at five-star hotels. It was in Cyprus that she

Advertisement feature

attained her diploma in acrylic nails, and gained great experience working with nails and nail art.

On moving back to the UK Julia set up in business from her home, specialising in acrylic nails and tanning.

Her recently-opened business, The Beauty Lounge, offers a full range of products and services including massage, facials, eyelash extensions, acrylic nails, tanning, make-up, bridal services, slimming wraps, teeth whitening, men's grooming treatments and hair extensions.

Julia said: "I work alongside Allarna, who trained in beauty in Oswestry and really takes pride in her job.

"Allarna specialises in massage, facials and waxing."

Julia added: "The feedback from clients has been amazing."

The Beauty Lounge will be holding regular teeth whitening clinics. Payment plans are available.

Student discounts are offered on Thursdays.

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Helpers needed in Relate stores

THE success of a charity in giving its volunteers skills in its shops has led to an unforeseen problem.

So many of those who have been volunteering in Relate stores have found paid employment that the charity is short of helpers.

The relationship organisation is finding it increasingly difficult to get volunteers, vital to keep open its 11 shops in the county. The situation is acute in Ellesmere, where Relate has two shops – one in High Street handles clothing and bric a brac, the other in Scotland Street, deals with second hand electrical and household items.

Kathy Pettingale, manager of both shops, says: "It is very gratifying to see volunteers come to us and in the process learn a good deal about how shops trade, the attitude and likes and dislikes of customers, building confidence."

"The downside for us is that the skills and experience gained by the volunteers is proving a stepping stone to securing the job they have been seeking for some time."

Mrs Pettingale said the shortage of volunteers means that a shop may have to remain closed, if a volunteer is unwell, not available, or there is no-one to fill in.

Potential volunteers can call (01691) 623404.

Pair of thieves sentenced after string of burglaries

A THIEF has been sentenced to two years in a young offenders' institute and his accomplice given an 18 month suspended sentence for a string of burglaries on the Powys/Shropshire border.

Leon Roberts and William Evans broke into six outbuildings in the grounds of homes in villages in North Powys, stealing chainsaws, a scrambler motorcycle worth £7,000 and leaf blowers before being chased by the police helicopter and a car.

The duo had admitted a range of charges at an earlier hearing, but appeared at Mold Crown Court for sentencing last Thursday.

by Graham Breeze

Roberts, 20, of Cherry Tree Drive, St Martins, near Oswestry had admitted six charges of burglary and four driving offences and was given two years in the young offenders' institute and an 18 month driving ban.

Evans, 18, of Bryn Mally Park, Pentre Broughton, Wrexham was given an 18 month sentence in a young offenders' institute, suspended for 18 months and an 18-month community order with a thinking skills probation requirement.

The Ford Transit van they used to carry out the burglaries was confiscated by the court.

Interviewed

Judge Phillip Hughes, sentencing them, said it had been a pre-meditated act designed to raise substantial amounts of money.

Both men admitted stealing three chainsaws, a hedge cutter and a leaf blower from a shed in Llanerfyl on August 28; stealing a chainsaw from a workshop in Llanerfyl on August 28; stealing two chainsaws from a garage in Llanerfyl on August 28; stealing two chainsaws, a red generator and motorcycle and welder from a garage in Llanwddyn on August 26; stealing three batteries worth £35 from a cart house in Llanfyllin on August 26; and stealing a leaf blower worth £400 from a workshop in Llanerfyl between August 25 and 29.

Roberts also admitted charges of failing to stop when directed by a police constable; driving a Ford Transit otherwise than in accordance with a licence; driving with no insurance and driving without due care and attention.

All four motoring charges relate to the driving of a Ford Transit van between Llanerfyl and Talerddig, near Welshpool on August 28.

Mr Karl Scholz, prosecuting, said police had received reports of burglaries at outbuildings in on the Powys/Shropshire border on August 26 and when the same reports came in two days later, a police car was sent to the area.

He said: "A police officer saw the van and the force helicopter was launched to assist in tracking the offenders down.

A blue light and siren pursuit followed and the van forced its way past one police car parked across the road, smashing a wing mirror as it went.

"The pursuit continued past a sign showing workmen and a male surveyor who was walking in the road in the direction of the van was forced to dive off the road to avoid a collision."

Mr Scholz said police interviewed both men later that day and they gave no comment interviews, but in another interview the next day they both made full admissions.

Landlord tunes into business

Rob Cook-Williams at his new shop Golden Guitars in the Pride Hill Shopping Centre in Shrewsbury.

A GUITARIST who has played with chart-toppers The Specials and Dexy's Midnight Runners has opened Golden Guitars, a music store in Shrewsbury's Pride Hill Shopping Centre.

Rob Cook-Williams and his band are still regulars on the pub and club circuit in Shropshire and Mid Wales and the 40-year-old is currently working on a CD of his self-penned songs.

Rob and his wife, Karen, who runs the Golden Lion, in Llandysilio, near Welshpool, also operates a thriving mail order music business.

He said: "We've had shops before but the chance to go inside in a busy retail centre was just too good to miss, we've got such a good spot to pick up passing trade as people walk through.

"I'm a song-writer and guitarist myself so I know the music business really well and I'm also keen to support local artists and bands and hope to have their music on sale here as well.

"I also have a full range of guitars and other musical instruments and equipment and accessories available."

Training tips for young are on offer

YOUNG people living in the Oswestry can find out more about their post-16 options at free apprenticeship event taking place on Tuesday.

County Training, part of Shropshire Council, will be delivering the "Secure Your Apprenticeship" information and advice events for young people and their parents to highlight apprenticeships and the benefits of vocational training.

The event promises a wide variety of opportunities for all young people, of ranging academic abilities, leaving school or college in 2013 as well as all 16 to 24-year-olds looking for work and training.

Parents and carers are also invited to attend the event to find out about the range of apprenticeships, work and training options.

Councillor Ann Hartley said: "Apprenticeships are becoming an increasingly effective way to secure a career which will offer long-term progression and success.

"I would urge anyone who is currently considering their options after school or college to attend these events to find out more about what apprenticeships are on offer."

Booking is essential.

Call (01743) 255164 or e-mail **countytraining@shropshire.gov.uk**

WINE & DINE

Season is likely to put paid to superstitions

SAM WYLIE-HARRIS heads to the Champagne region of France to report on this year's harvest and to suggest some prize picks from previous vintages.

Jacquart Cuvee Alpha 2005.

FOR anyone with a thread of superstition, the number 13 is unlucky, and it was certainly looking that way in France's Champagne region for much of this year.

After a cold, wet start to 2013, followed by a gloomy spring with even more rain, the vine cycle was two weeks behind the ten-year average.

It wasn't until the start of July – and the sunniest summer for years – that the fruit finally started to ripen.

A short snap of rain in September helped fatten the grapes, then more warm weather continued and, at last, the harvest began in the first few days of October.

Despite being the latest for 20 years, the Champagne Bureau says it has the potential to be "outstanding".

Indeed, the Champenois are already drawing favourable comparisons to the vintages (wines from a single harvest) of 1983, 1988 and 1998 which were also late, and 2013 could well become an all-time great.

To join the hundreds of growers celebrating mother nature's wheel of fortune, try these sparkling suggestions.

In a class of its own, Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame (£135) was first released in 1985 and in line with Madame Clicquot's motto: "Only one quality, the finest", there have been very few vintages since.

Appreciated for their excellent quality and keen pricing, Champagne Jacquart have launched a new cuvee which looks as good as it tastes.

A handsome dark bottle with a golden collar, Champagne Jacquart Cuvee Alpha 2005 (£75, **www.greatwesternwine.com**) is a vintage blend of grand cru and premier cru grapes and this equal mix of pinot noir and chardonnay with its brioche nose, fine citrus fruits, creamy palate with a long, slightly yeasty finish has the makings of a masterpiece.

Like several other famous houses, GH Mumm have experienced a rollercoaster in fortunes. While GH Mumm Cordon Rouge NV (non-vintage) remains a classic, it's also worth seeking out their 56th vintage over nearly two centuries, if only to see how this pinot noir dominant champagne pairs beautifully with food.

Aromatic

Try Champagne G H Mumm 2006 (£39.99, **Sainsbury's**) which is fresh and weighty with an aromatic, biscuity nose, candied citrus fruits and a vibrant long finish that can take this wine from rich shellfish to white meat.

Taittinger heiress Virginie Taittinger worked for Champagne Taittinger, one of the blue-chip labels in Champagne, for 21 years before breaking away in 2006 when the group was sold.

With bubbles running through her veins, Virginie launched her own champagne label and has now released her first cuvee, Champagne Virginie T NV Brut (£36, minimum six bottles, **www.virginie-t.com**).

Classified as non-vintage, but mostly composed of grapes from the 2006 vintage, with reserve wines from 2005, the blend is around two-thirds pinot noir and one-third chardonnay – it tastes divine.

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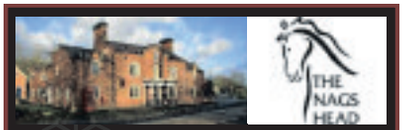

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Air ambulance buys its first helicopter for night flights

AN AIR Ambulance will now be able to take to the sky for the time at night in the Oswestry area.

Midlands Air Ambulance has bought its first helicopter and it comes with the ability to fly at night.

Bosses at the charity have bought the new £4.5m EC135T2e helicopter, which will be based at RAF Cosford, which is fully equipped for night flying and will replace three EC135 helicopters that are currently leased to the charity.

Because of its new capabilities, the charity is exploring the viability of flying at night and plans to launch a public appeal in the new year to help raise the extra funds necessary.

by Graham Breeze

Brendan Connor, chairman of the Midlands Air Ambulance, said: "The new £4.5million helicopter has been entirely funded through public donations, demonstrating the incredible support our vital life-saving service receives from local Midlands communities and businesses, which we are extremely grateful for.

"The new aircraft will undoubtedly help us to save more lives as it presents us with an opportunity to expand our incredible service and deliver the best possible patient care to those we airlift.

Milestone

"But we cannot afford to rest on our laurels and although this is a milestone achievement in our 22 years of service, we need the support from the local communities we serve now, more than ever."

The new helicopter will be delivered to Bond Air Services in Staverton in December and will be operational at RAF Cosford from March. It is currently being painted and fitted with medical equipment, plus additional equipment for night flying.

The Midlands Air Ambulance is the only charity responsible for funding and operating air ambulances serving Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands, the largest region in the UK.

An example of the helicopter which has been bought by Midlands Air Ambulance.

Progress made in fighting measles

HEALTH officials say good progress is being made in vaccinating children in the area against measles.

But they warned there were still some children who needed protecting against the disease.

The region was caught up in last year's outbreak which resulted in more than 1,200 cases and one death.

Between March and May there were 12 in Shropshire – nine in May alone. But officials said there was a dramatic fall in cases following a programme to vaccinate youngsters who missed out on their jabs when they were toddlers after it was mistakenly linked to autism.

The NHS is offering all children up to the age of 18 a free MMR "catch-up" vaccination.

Neil Adams, consultant in public health for NHS England in Shropshire and Staffordshire, said: "The combined vaccination has been shown to be safe and effective."

Library plans a busy month

BASKET making, sock knitting and puppet shows are among the activities being held at a library over the coming weeks.

The programme at Oswestry Library for November is aimed at people of all ages.

It started on Saturday with a basket making workshop and this Saturday "The Joy of Sox" will be shared at a sock knitting workshop from 1pm-4pm. The session is £25 to include all materials and equipment.

A Rotary Youth Speaks competition will be held on November 26.

Children will be treated to a puppet show the Three Billy Pigs on November 16. It will be staged by Arts Alive, tickets cost £5.

Readers are welcome to join Oswestry Library Reading Group, which will meet on November 27 at 4pm.

There will be a talk on dormice by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust on November 29 from noon until 1pm.

Contact oswestry.library@shropshire.gov.uk or call (01691) 677388.

Quiz at centre

A QUIZ will be held at Whittington Community Centre, Whittington, near Oswestry, on November 15. Teams of up to four are invited to enter for £12 per team, to include light refreshments. The event starts at 7.30pm. Call (01691) 662116.

Tributes to train worker who died

A MAN from Ellesmere has died while working on board an Arriva train service from Shrewsbury to Manchester.

Trolley steward David Humphreys died while working on the Arriva Trains Wales service from Milford Haven to Manchester Piccadilly.

It is believed Mr Humphreys was found by the train conductor in the toilet.

Paramedics from North West Ambulance service were alerted and were on the scene when the train arrived at Crewe Railway station.

A spokesman for British Transport Police said paramedics were called to the station at around 11.30am on Tuesday last week.

He added: "The man was taken to Leighton Hospital in Crewe, but unfortunately he died."

British Transport Police confirmed that the man's family had been informed. The cause of death is not yet known.

Shocked colleagues turned to Facebook today to share tributes of Mr Humphreys.

Ed Pritchard, an Arriva worker from Shrewsbury, said: "Such sad news on the railway today.

"Dave you had a heart of gold and didn't have a bad bone in your body. You will be missed by all."

Poppy Appeal 2013

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Winter fashions on show for charity

A COLLEGE is gearing up to hold its annual charity fashion show.

Students at the Oswestry campus of Walford and North Shropshire College have been busy preparing for the show, which takes place later this month.

This year, as well as the hair and beauty department, the new Scholars restaurant will be involved in the event.

The show will feature fashion items from the autumn and winter collections of local businesses, including JEMS Dress Agency of Oswestry and Dorothy Perkins.

There will also be a bridalwear section.

All proceeds from this charity event, which will also feature live vocals and a raffle, will be shared between Help for Heroes and CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).

Sharon Cooper, head of commercial services, said: "We are delighted that local businesses are supporting the students and the students are really looking forward to displaying their skills and creativity."

This year's event will be taking place on November 27, starting at 6.30pm.

Tickets are £10 and are available now from the Oswestry Campus reception, in person or by telephoning (01691) 688000.

Fury at parking rise for regular hospital users

CAR parking charges at hospitals in Shropshire should be dropped for patients making regular visits, an MP is claiming.

Glyn Davies, Montgomeryshire MP, said he will be contacting the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust (SaTH) after it started bringing in new, higher charges yesterday.

It comes a day after Chancellor George Osborne was urged to intervene and block plans to raise the charges.

Shrewsbury MP Daniel Kawczynski wants parking charges at hospitals abolished and has said he will call on the Government to provide extra funding for individual health trusts to make up the shortfall.

Mr Davies said patients who have regular appointments – and especially those travelling from afar – should be given concessionary rates to help them cope.

Justifiable

Charges at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital in Telford are being increased to £3.50 for 24 hours – a 75 per cent rise from the previous all day rate of £2.

The new tariff will also see visitors charged £2.50 for up to two hours and £3 for up to five hours.

Mr Davies said: "I am disappointed that the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust has decided to increase its car park charges at Shrewsbury and Telford, particularly since parking at hospitals is free in Wales.

"While most of us dislike the principle of charging patients and visitors at hospitals, it does ensure that the car parks are not abused by drivers who either live or work close-by and want to park for free, often to the disadvantage of patients and family members who wish to visit them.

"Hospital car parking charges must be reasonable, justifiable and not used simply as a way of raising money."

He added: "I will contact the trust myself, pressing for concessions to be made available for patients who have to visit their hospital on a regular basis and for those who simply cannot afford the proposed charges."

The move has also been attacked by Telford MP David Wright who described the new parking charges as "a charge on the sick".

Adrian Osborne, communications director for SaTH, said: "While the trust has managed to avoid increasing car parking charges for eight years, this cannot continue without having an impact on other services and facilities."

by Andrew Morris

New window marks anniversary

With the window at Oswestry School are Barry Brady of Meridan Glass, Phil Bowd, bursar, and headmaster Douglas Robb.

PUPILS will be marking the 150th anniversary of their school chapel with the unveiling of a new stained glass window.

Staff at Oswestry School asked pupils to come up with ideas for the design, and the finished window will be unveiled at a service of dedication on November 23.

Once a window was decided on, pupils were asked to think about the major school events which had happened in the past 150 years, their favourite subjects and notable characters from the school's history as they started creating designs for the window.

Pupils from Year 5 upwards who had shown an interest in the project took part in workshops with Barry Brady from Meridian Stained Glass, St Asalph, who was commissioned to craft and design the window.

The construction of the window took just over 15 weeks of intensive work.

Record run by Andy in his push for Games

A GREAT effort from Forden's Andy Davies saw him smash his personal best marathon time by five minutes in Germany, but it wasn't quite enough to secure a spot in the Welsh team for the Commonwealth Games.

Andy, 35, who runs for Maldwyn Harriers and lectures at NPTC's Newtown Campus, clocked 2:20:35 at the Frankfurt Marathon to finish 28th overall the fourth fastest British runner.

It was an incredible time considering the strong winds, but he still fell short of the A standard qualifying mark of 2:18.

"I am thrilled with the run considering the windy conditions," said Andy. "I have another chance to make the time in the spring, possibly at the London marathon, so will keep training and competing in cross country and road races through the winter to see if I can knock a couple of minutes off."

The Commonwealth Games marathon is one of the blue chip events at Glasgow 2014, with many of the world's best running including England's Mo Farrah.

There is a chance that Andy will make the Games, even if he doesn't quite achieve the qualifying time, but that will be a decision made by the Wales team nearer the time.

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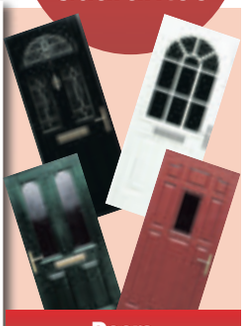

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Chamber takes up £50 note challenge with special brunch to help hospices

IT'S NOT every day someone hands you a £50 note, no strings attached, but that is precisely what Hope House Hospice has been doing with local businesses as part of their Corporate Challenge.

The only rules are that you must try to turn that £50 into as much money as possible in 90 days without resorting to illegal or unethical methods.

The challenge provides a great opportunity for businesses to raise their profile through good news stories, free PR, build staff rapport through fund raising activities and demonstrate their commitment to the wider community of Oswestry.

You can register to take part in the Challenge by contacting Lynsey Kilvert at Hope House Children's Hospices on 01691 671671.

As a Chamber of Commerce we have decided to take up the challenge and our first event, open to everyone, is Blue Grass and Brunch and it takes place on November 17 at The Willow Gallery in Oswestry.

Tickets are just £15 to include Bucks Fizz and Brunch and can be purchased at Booka, Willow Eatery or Rowanthorn or by calling Heather on 01691 700800.

Heather Noble

Music will be provided by one of Oswestry's favourite duos, Little Red Bird.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce meets on the first Wednesday of the month at The Wynnstay Hotel see the website at **www.oswestrychamber.org.uk**

Heather Noble
Chairman
Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

Solicitors issue reminder on importance of making a will

by Graham Breeze

A LEADING firm of solicitors this week pointed out the importance of making a will.

Lanyon Bowdler, one of the most recognised firms of solicitors in Shropshire & Herefordshire, warned that if you die without having made a will your assets may be distributed according to the law rather than your wishes. This could mean that your partner receives less, or that the money goes to family members who may not need it.

"How many times have you heard the old sayings "There are no pockets in shrouds" or "You can't take it with you." The question therefore is – who should you leave it to," said chartered legal executive Susan Shanahan.

Susan Shanahan – a warning on wills.

"Statistics show that more than a third of over-55s do not have a will, yet the average person expects to leave at least £10,000 or more in savings when they die.

"As we plan our lives, so we should also plan for our death. Making a will is a liberating experience. It lifts a weight off your shoulders and helps to put affairs in order.

Provide

"Not only can you decide who will inherit your estate, it also ensures you continue to provide for your loved ones and family after your death, just as you did when you were living."

She added: "Co-habitees are the most vulnerable as they do not have any legal entitlement to their partner's estate when they die. They do not have the same rights as married couples and civil partners.

"If co-habitees have children, when one partner dies without leaving a will, the deceased's estate would pass to or for the benefit of the children and not to the surviving partner.

"No-one can predict when they will die, so there is no good reason to put off making a will. People can die at a young age or when they are in their 80s, 90s or beyond – so do not wait until you reach a "suitable" age to make your will."

Town garage takes top award

Craig Huxley, left, and Aaron Argyle celebrate the Arthurs "first".

AN Oswestry garage dealership has won its first Motability regional award.

Arthurs of Oswestry, a Motability approved Vauxhall dealer for almost the entire life of the scheme, is the quarter three winner in their region.

Nigel Williams, managing director said: "We are thrilled to be Motability regional winners for the first time in Arthurs history.

"Motability is the largest vehicle fleet in the country and is a national charity founded back in 1977 – just two years prior to the Williams family acquiring the Arthurs dealership.

"It is a scheme which has already helped more than three million people to get mobile by exchanging their disability allowance to lease a car, scooter or powered wheelchair.

"The regional award is great news for Arthurs because it is a 'first'."

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BUSINESS

Metal thefts spark fight back by power company

Advertisement feature

A NEW hard-hitting advertising campaign has been launched by ScottishPower Energy Networks in response to the number of thefts of metal from electricity substations in the Dee Valley and Oswestry areas.

Since January 2011 the company has experienced 186 substation attacks, which have put nearby residents in potential danger.

With a nod to the public safety adverts of the 70s and 80s, ScottishPower's new 'Copped It' campaign seeks to illustrate the very real safety threats that are caused by mindless criminal activity.

As part of the campaign ScottishPower is also willing to pay up to £10,000 to anyone who can provide information that leads to a conviction of criminals involved in metal theft from its equipment.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act in England and Wales, which came in to effect this year, along with high profile information campaigns and police crackdowns has seen the number of substation attacks drop considerably in the area since 2011.

There have currently been four incidences at substations in the Dee Valley and Oswestry areas to date in 2013, compared to 133 for the whole of 2011.

However, ScottishPower is warning that it is important not be complacent, as any act of vandalism or theft from a substation can have extremely serious consequences.

Each substation supplies an average of 100 homes, and every theft or act of vandalism can disrupt voltages, which can potentially lead to damaged household appliances or even cause fires.

Frank Mitchell, CEO of ScottishPower Energy Networks, said: "It is a misconception that stealing metal from a substation or a power line is a victimless crime.

Melanie has a new role

Steve Kenyon and Melanie Gregory.

NFU MUTUAL has announced the appointment of Melanie Gregory as assistant agent for its Welshpool agency.

Melanie joined the Welshpool agency in June 2010, where she progressed from insurance administrator to business development manager before her current appointment.

In her new role she will draw on her knowledge and understanding of the local community to help provide a first class service for farming and commercial business members, while helping them to protect their property and work safely.

She said: "As a local resident of Welshpool, I particularly enjoy forming relationships with our members to provide a local, personal service helping them to protect their farms, businesses and livelihoods."

Senior agent Steve Kenyon said: "Our success is down to maintaining good relationships with our members, providing solid expertise and always a friendly customer experience, something Melanie is great at.

"I am pleased to welcome her on board and believe that with her local knowledge and expertise, we have exciting times ahead of us."

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more than retailers....

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce is the formal voice of Oswestry's business community. Our rapidly growing membership comprises energetic and visionary business owners and professionals who recognise that partnership working is not only good for their business but good for Oswestry. Join us today!

LET'S BUST A FEW MYTHS...

- We're not an organisation purely for retailers
- Our meetings are not dominated by men in suits
- Oswestry Chamber of Commerce is not just a 'talking shop' - our voice helps get things done
- We're not a networking group - but we do passionately believe in networking
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Bowlers bring new twist to their game for fundraising

ITS ORIGINS can be traced back to the 13th century and it is a game which remains popular with thousands of people across Britain.

But now two enthusiasts from Whittington have come up with a new twist on the traditional format of crown green bowls in a bid to raise money for a prostate cancer charity.

Pete Williams and David Jones, who both play the game in Whittington, near Oswestry, have devised a new version where players have one wood and all take aim at the jack in the middle of the green at the same time once a signal is given. The winner is the person whose wood lands nearest the jack.

by Sue Austin

They came up with the idea for a post-season charity fundraiser on the village's green for Prostate Cancer UK. And after the competition and auction raised more than £600 they now hope the game will be rolled out across the country.

The new version of the game differs from the traditional crown green format, where players usually have two woods and can position the jack wherever they please. Players also take in turn to bowl their woods.

Both Mr Williams and Mr Jones are being treated for prostate cancer and said the money raised would go towards research and treatment of the disease.

Mr Williams said: "It was a great evening. We held the competition and an auction which raised £610.

"It is a very simple game – you don't have to be a bowler to have a go at this."

He said the idea was for each player to pay £1 and for clubs to provide a prize, and added the game could be linked with a fundraising evening at the end of the season or played perhaps once a month.

All the money raised would go to Prostate Cancer UK, Natwest, account number 53472586, sort code 50-41-10.

Mr Williams said: "We would love to get this game out to all the clubs in the area and hopefully at some stage we can get it nationwide as a lot of bowlers have or will have this condition."

Pete Williams, left, and Dave Jones of Whittington Bowling Club. *Picture: Ian Sheppard*

Guides go climbing walls with no ropes

GIRLS from the 4th Oswestry Guide unit tried out a new activity at their latest meeting.

The group, all aged 10 to 14, spent their Friday evening meeting at Oswestry Climbing Centre where they were taught the basics of bouldering – a form of rock climbing that is performed without the use of ropes or harnesses.

They were then let loose to try out the activity on the 4.5 metre-high walls while unit leader Jasmine Hopkins watched from below.

She said: "The trip to Oswestry Climbing Centre was a great chance for the girls to try out a different sport and challenge themselves in a safe space.

"This trip forms part of an exciting, new programme that the Guides have put together themselves for the coming year, with a bonfire night campfire planned for our next meeting."

Historians are to host speaker

THE next meeting of the Oswestry and Border History and Archaeology Group will be tomorrow (Friday) in Oswestry Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Mike Emery will speak on The Poulton Research Project.

All welcome. For details call (01691) 690184.

Cadets boost Poppy Appeal

ARMY cadets have been on the streets of Oswestry helping to boost this year's Poppy Appeal across the county.

In Oswestry the young men and women have doubled the amount they collected last year as people dig deep to help the Royal British Legion.

About 25 members of the Oswestry detachment of the Shropshire Army Cadet Force volunteers, aged between 12 and 18, gave up two Saturdays to sell poppies and other commemorative items.

Over the two days they hope to have raised about £1,500.

Detachment commander, Staff Sergeant Jan Haydon, said: "This is about double the amount the detachment raised last year. We have had some really good comments from members of the public about how good it is to see young people collecting for the Royal British Legion."

This year the Royal British Legion is also selling wrist bands and bracelets.

Family's records bought at sale

A UNIQUE and valuable collection of records from one of Shropshire's oldest families has been bought for the county for more than £3,000 at auction.

The Sandfords trace their roots back to a Thomas 'de Saundford', a Norman lord mentioned in the Domesday book in 1086.

Their family home was Sandford Hall, near Prees, and they also gave their name to Sandford, West Felton, near Oswestry. The 150 records date from 1604 to 1777 and include personal and political letters.

Shropshire Archives already holds a collection of records relating to the Sandford family and will now be able to fill in gaps in the family stories.

Tina Woodward of Shropshire Council said: "These records are a very valuable addition to the collection.

"We are very grateful to all our funders for enabling us to bring these fascinating archives back to Shropshire.

"They represent an important part of our county's story and will soon be available for research and study by everyone."

The collection was bought for £3,240 with the help of the V&A purchase grant fund, the Friends of the National Libraries, Shropshire Family History Society and the Friends of Shropshire Archives.

CHRONICLE

Pictured left to right: Kate Howell (Agency Owner), Harriet Fallon (Senior Customer Consultant), Daniel Graham, Kelly Griffiths and Warren Howell (Agency Owner).

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Former schoolhouse and annexe in superb location

A former village school and headmaster's quarters in the picturesque Tanat Valley in North Powys is for sale with Halls for £427,500.

The Old School House and The School House in Penybontfawr consist of two charming Victorian properties, which are currently used as a home and holiday let annexe.

The main property is the former village school, which was converted between 2008 and 2011 and now offers open plan, contemporary living accommodation with spacious rooms.

There is an entrance hall, cloakroom, magnificent fitted kitchen with an Aga, superb lounge with an oak staircase to a gallery bedroom, conservatory and a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom.

The attached School House, formerly the headmaster's quarters, is used as a popular holiday let with two reception rooms, a large kitchen, three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

The substantial property, which has views of hills and open countryside, is situated in three-quarters of an acre of formal and private gardens with vegetable and flower beds, a coppice area and orchard

Electrically operated gates open to the drive, which sweeps around to a parking area at the rear. A separate drive leads to The School House. There is a double car port, a lean-to storage area, large garden shed, greenhouse and covered stable-style area.

Contact the Oswestry office of Halls on 01691 670320 or visit www.hallsestateagents.co.uk

Detached bungalow in desirable part of town

An attractive two-bedroom detached bungalow in a sought-after part of Oswestry is on the market with Woodhead Estates.

Number 14 Roundwood Close, which has double glazing and gas central heating, includes a porch, entrance hall, kitchen with door to the garden, living room/diner, bathroom, gravelled driveway leading to a detached garage, and an enclosed rear garden with raised lawn.

Early viewings are highly recommended by the agents, who can be contacted on 01691 680044 or at www.woodheadestates.com

Rural property with land offers plenty of potential

A delightful rural holding in an idyllic setting suitable for either equestrian or agricultural use is on the market.

Penrhiw, near Llanfair Caereinion, is on sale either as a whole or in two separate lots. Lot 1 includes a detached three-bedroom farmhouse, a traditional brick and stone building range and modern stock building, together with 7.08 acres of good agricultural land. The property offers huge scope for modernisation and development (subject to consents) to provide a modern family home.

Lot 2 extends to 10.72 acres of permanent pasture with the benefit of roadside access.

The property is offered at a guide price of £350,000. For details call Roger Parry & Partners on 01938 554499 or visit www.rogerparry.net

01691 659951 www.samuelwood.co.uk

Halls 01691 670320 www.hallsgb.com

james&co 01691 657077 www.jamesandcoproperty.co.uk

J. J. DELL & Co. 01691 653437 www.jjdell.co.uk

01743 343343 www.parrylowarch.co.uk

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Bowen Son and Watson 01691 652367 www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

TOWN & COUNTRY 01691 679631 www.townandcountryoswestry.com

01691 654222 www.richmondharvey.com

Halls 1845

This detached three bedroom bungalow offers spacious accommodation and benefits from lovely private rear gardens.

- 3 Bedroom Detached
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Garage & Parking
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- Pleasant Residential Area
- Current EPC Rating D

Glentworth Avenue, Oswestry

Price: £199,950

Contact Oswestry

A delightful two bedroom detached cottage situated in a semi rural location within level walking distance of the village centre. Updated and improved by the present owners to provide a New Kitchen, new Carpets laid and a re-wire.

- 2 Double Bedrooms
- UPVC DG & Conservatory
- Central Heating
- Low Maintenance Gardens
- 2 Parking Areas
- Current EPC Rating E

Clarkes Lane, St Martins

Price: £205,000

Contact Oswestry

A most spacious FOUR bedroom detached dormer bungalow with large gardens & garage.

- 4 Bedroom (2 Master Suites)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Garage & Ample Parking
- Gardens
- UPVC DG & CH
- Current EPC Rating D

Cabin Lane, Oswestry

Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

This detached family home is situated in a quiet cul de sac location within a popular semi rural village.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- 2 Receptions & Conservatory
- Single Garage & Parking Area
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Spacious Accommodation

Pentre Clawdd, Meifod

Price: £224,950

Contact Oswestry

A three/four bedroom character cottage with babbling brook situated on the outskirts of Llansilin. The property offers immense character and charm and the accommodation is very adaptable and versatile.

- Former Smithy
- Annex / Holiday Cottage Potential
- Gardens
- Parking
- Countryside Views

Wenffrwd Smithy, Llansilin

Price: £239,950

Contact Oswestry

This three bedroom 1930's semi detached family home situated in a most convenient location within walking distance to Gobowen Station and also has shops and countryside walks.

- 3 Bedrooms
- Views To Welsh Hills
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Current EPC Rating E

Cae Glas, St Martins Road, Gobowen

Price: £148,995

Contact Oswestry

Idyllically situated within the picturesque Tanat Valley, set well back of the passing road and enjoying South facing landscaped gardens a unique stone built former mill standing in grounds of approx 1/2 acre.

- 3/4 Bedrooms
- 2 Conservatories
- Double Garage & Parking
- Idyllic Rural Location
- Pond & Fishing Rights
- Current EPC Rating E

The Old Mill, Penybont

Price: £375,000

Contact Oswestry

A four bedroom detached family home offering adaptable and versatile accommodation set in 1.670 acres and located down a quiet country lane

- 4 Bed Property
- Annex Or Holiday Let Potential
- Brook, Woodland & Pasture
- Range Of Outbuildings
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating D

White House, Kinnerley

Price: £374,950

Contact Oswestry

This detached bungalow is slightly elevated to appreciate the views to the hills in the distance.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Requires Some Updating
- Current EPC Rating D

Old Post Office Lane, Trefonen

Price: £229,950

Contact Oswestry

This three bedroom detached cottage is situated down a quiet country lane close to the village of Llanrhaeadr and only 11 miles from Oswestry.

- 3 Bedrooms (Master & En-Suite)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Dating Back To Approx 1850
- Original Features & Oil CH
- OPEN DAY 16 NOVEMBER 2013
- Current EPC Rating E

Cefn Glaniwrch Cottage, Llanrhaeadr

Price: £219,950

Contact Oswestry

This immaculate three bedroom detached family home is situated in a pleasant location within a most popular and sought after village.

- 3 Bedroom Detached
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens
- Oil CH & UPVC DG
- Current EPC Rating C

Orchard Drive, West Felton

Price: £194,950

Contact Oswestry

A well appointed three bedroom detached bungalow situated in a quiet cul-de-sac position having the benefit of gas fired central heating and UPVC double glazing

- 3 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Garage & Parking
- UPVC DG & Gas CH
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating D

Sandringham Avenue, Oswestry

Price: £149,950

Contact Oswestry

An imposing 1930's detached family home situated in a most sought after residential area of Oswestry.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- 3/4 Reception Rooms
- Spacious Rooms Over 3 Floors
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating E

Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry

Price: £349,950

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- PP To Erect 8 Houses
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Building Land, Llanymynech

Price: £350,000

Contact Oswestry

A most well appointed two bedroom retirement bungalow situated on a purpose built development offering additional care facilities if required.

- 2 Bedrooms
- Lounge / Dining Area & Conservatory
- Garage & Parking
- Private Garden & Communal Gardens
- Current EPC Rating D
- Viewing Advised

Meadowbrook Court, Gobowen

Price: £107,500

Contact Oswestry

A detached country cottage situated in a truly idyllic rural location. Secluded but not isolated this family home is set in beautiful gardens extending to approx 3/4 of an acre.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Countryside Views
- Garage / Workshop
- Parking
- Dating Back To 1800s
- Current EPC Rating E

Pen-y-boncyn, Penybontfawr

Price: £299,950

Contact Oswestry

A FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM family home situated in a quiet cul de sac in a popular residential area.

- 4 Double Bedrooms (Master & En-Suite)
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing (Installed 2010)
- Conservatory
- Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating C

Poplar Close, St Martins

Price: £199,950

Contact Oswestry

Occupying a large corner plot, this detached three bedroom bungalow has been updated by the current owners.

- 3 Bedroom
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Detached Garage, Car Port & Parking
- Large Corner Plot
- Current EPC Rating D

College Road, Oswestry

Price: £174,950

Contact Oswestry

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RICS

NEW

Cambrian Avenue Whittington £149,950

- A most delightful spacious and extended Semi-Detached House
- Sitting Room, Snug, Kitchen, Landing, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- Delightful gardens to the fore with ample parking for several cars
- Fully enclosed south facing rear garden and with views
- Gas fired central heating, Double Glazing, EPC Rating

MORDA Road Oswestry £625,000

NEW

- A rare opportunity to purchase an immaculately presented 6 bedroom executive family home standing within generous grounds extending to approximately 0.5 acre
- Constructed approximately 10 years ago and was finished to the highest of standards. With light and spacious rooms which are spread over 3 floors all accessed off a glazed atrium at the heart of the property
- Landscaped gardens with a large terrace area to the rear and a gated driveway providing security and off road parking, large Double Garage and Log Cabin. EPC Rating C

NEW - NO CHAIN

Trinity Close Gobowen £144,995

- A well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Cloakroom, modern Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms (Master Ensuite), 2 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Private rear garden with a decked area and raised patio and off road parking
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating throughout. EPC Rating C

NEW

Meadow Way Gobowen £159,995

- A spacious 4 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility, Cloaks & Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom, single garage & driveway
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

NEW

Middleton Road Oswestry £189,995

- A well appointed, deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Property
- The property was constructed approximately 8 years ago
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite, 2 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Good size gardens with patio and slate covered seating area to rear
- A single garage and off-road parking
- Double glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating

NEW

Rectory Terrace Welsh Frankton £150,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 4 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Standing in terraced gardens and grounds extending to 0.22 acre
- Stunning views over open countryside towards Rodney's Pillar
- Sun Room, Cloaks, Living/Dining Room, Kitchen, Lounge
- 4 Bedrooms and Shower Room.
- Externally a raised patio area takes full advantage of the views
- Formal gardens and vegetable plots. Oil C/H. D/G. EPC Rating

Hampton Close Oswestry £269,995

- An immaculately presented 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, Dining Room
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, 2 Further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Landscaped gardens with large seating area, single garage & carport
- uPVC double and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D

Milars Field Morda £145,000

- An immaculately presented 2 Bedroom End-Terrace Bungalow
- In an elevated position overlooking open countryside on the edge of Morda
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, fully fitted Kitchen, Bathroom and 2 Bedrooms
- The property has a private rear garden and designated parking area
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating C

December 5

Collective Property Auction

Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton, Oswestry, 2.00pm

Entries are now being invited for our Property Auction in March 2014
For more information please call any of our offices.

WREXHAM Acton — LOT 1 Guide Price Over £90,000

AUCTION

- Scope for modernisation
- Semi-detached in a cul-de-sac
- Comprises three bedrooms, kitchen, lounge/dining room and spacious bathroom
- Sunroom and conservatory
- Paved rear garden for easy maintainance

WREXHAM Rhostyllen — LOT 2 Guide Price £5,000

AUCTION

A rare opportunity to purchase a well located parcel of mixed woodland adjoining the popular Esless Park residential development. The woodland extends to around 1.125 hectares (approximately 2.77 acres).

Nr LLANGOLLEN Dolywern — LOT 3 Guide Price Over £200,000

AUCTION

- Impressive oak-clad 'converted barn' style residence
- Picturesque rural location
- On the banks of the River Ceiriog
- Comprises 2 separate dwellings
- Ground floor garaging with potential for further residential use subject to the neccessary planning consents
- EPC rating G and D

Nr LLANGOLLEN Dolywern — LOT 4 Guide Price £65,000 to £75,000

AUCTION

- Located in the picturesque Ceiriog Valley
- Part of a Conversion of the Former Mill
- Kitchen, Living Room, One Bedroom, Shower Room
- Courtyard and parking space for one vehicle
- EPC Rating 'G'

Nr LLANGOLLEN Dolywern — LOT 5 Guide Price £75,000–£85,000

AUCTION

- Spacious One Bedroom Apartment
- Located in the Ceiriog Valley
- Part of a Conversion of the Former Mill
- Entrance Hall, Open Plan Kitchen/Living/Dining Room
- One Bedroom, Shower Room
- Courtyard and parking space for one vehicle
- EPC Rating 'E'

WREXHAM Coedpoeth — LOT 6 Guide Price Over £50,000

AUCTION

A stone-built semi-detached village property with living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The accommodation has planning permission for works of a two storey extension including the provision of a car port. The accomnnodation as existing has doubleglazing and gas fired central heating.

WREXHAM Coedpoeth — LOT 7 Guide Price £35,000–£45,000

AUCTION

A detached stone built former chapel having planning permission for demolition and replacement upon the site with a brand new four bedroom detached dwelling. The planning consent was granted by Wrexham County October 2013. Alternatively the property may be retained for a variety of potential uses.

WREXHAM Brymbo — LOT 8 Guide Price Over £120,000

AUCTION

- Detached Four Bed Property
- Large Workshop and Garage to ground floor
- Timber Outbuilding
- Ample Parking and Car port
- Viewing Recommended
- Energy Rating E

2014 Property Auctions

27 March, 19 June, 18 September & 11 December

Welcome to our December Property Auction.
Entries are now being invited for the first sale of 2014 to be held on the 27th March
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Property

Beautiful views at detached property

This spacious detached home between Welshpool and Shrewsbury has been reduced by £10,000 to £239,950.

Ivydene in the village of Trewern has a sitting room, dining kitchen, snug, office, utility, two ensuite bedrooms, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom. Many of the rooms enjoy glorious views towards the nearby Long Mountain.

Well laid out gardens surround the house and there is also a double garage.

Call Morris Marshall and Poole on 01938 554818 to find out more.

Period home in scenic village

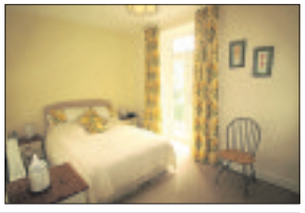
A delightful one bedroom semi-detached property in the picturesque village of Glyn Ceiriog is on the market for offers in the region of £105,000.

The accommodation at The Old School House, High Street, comprises a lounge, kitchen, dining room, bathroom and double bedroom with French doors to the patio.

The property benefits from oil-fired central heating throughout.

There is off road parking and a patio area to the rear and side with lovely views over the village towards open countryside beyond.

Viewing is essential to appreciate the condition of this property say agents Town & Country, who can be contacted on 01691679631.



Market Street, Llanfyllin

£390 PCM £550 Deposit

Mid-terraced townhouse with kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, sitting room, on street parking.

Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.

Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating F

Oswestry Town Centre

£365 PCM £550 Deposit

Newly refurbished apartment with bedroom, kitchen, living room, bathroom, electric heating.

Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.

Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating TBC

Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry

£400 PCM £600 Deposit

End terrace cottage, the accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 2 bedrooms, small garden, parking.

Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.

Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating E

Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry

£410 PCM £600 Deposit

Mid-terraced cottage with two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, kitchen, sitting room, living room, gardens and parking

Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.

Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating E

Oaklands Road, Chirk Bank

£550 PCM £650 Deposit

A semi detached property with a pretty garden, three bedrooms and family bathroom, sitting room with log burner, kitchen and parking.

Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.

Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating C

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Local Specialists

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Mick's approach is very friendly and there is no pressure to make same-day decisions. Please call Mick or Sue at MJ Designs on 01952 401650 or 07974 392401. Please visit our website: www.mjdesignsshropshire.co.uk

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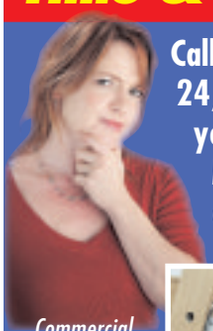

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deaths

DRAKE

George Edward

Passed away peacefully on October 29, 2013, after a long illness, aged 89 years.

Beloved Husband of the late Mary, dearly loved Father of Paul, Father-in-law of Sandra, much loved Grandfather of Gary and Chris, Great-Grandfather of Lily and dearly loved Uncle.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Monday, November 11, at 11am.

No flowers by request, donations if desired to Greyhound Rescue.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

HARRISON

Jean May

nee Lewis

Peacefully on October 29, 2013, at Wrexham Maelor Hospital, of Rhostyllen, Wrexham, formerly of Western Drive, Oswestry, aged 67 years.

Funeral Service to take place at Pentrebychan Crematorium, at 11.30am, on Tuesday, November 12, 2013.

Family flowers only please.

Donations if desired may be given in memory via the offertory plates for Nightingale House Hospice and Shooting Star Unit, Wrexham Maelor Hospital.

Inquiries please to

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4 High Street

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01978 756997

JONES

Glad

Of Sherwood, Rhos Common, Llandrinio. Beloved Wife of the late Reverend Dick Jones, Mother of Judith and Grandmother of Lucy and Ben and a Friend to many. Passed away on October 30, 2013, in hospital.

The Funeral Service will take place in St Tysilio's Church, Llandysilio, Four Crosses on Friday, November 8, at 11.15am.

No flowers please, although all kind donations will be divided between The Hope House Hospice and The League of Friends, Welshpool Hospital, Maldwyn Ward.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
The Elms,
Four Crosses.
01691 839292

acknowledgements

WHITFORD

Marjorie Beryl

Eric and Relatives would sincerely like to thank Friends and Neighbours for their kindness, support and lovely messages of sympathy received on the sad loss of my Wife.

Thanks to everyone for attendance at the Funeral, for the kind donations, which will be forwarded to the Severn Hospice, Shrewsbury, to the Funeral Directors Frank Painter & Sons for their kindness and professionalism, also The Vicar Reverend Fish for a lovely Service.

A special thank you to the Doctors, Nurses and Carers who were faultless in their care throughout Marjorie's illness and for the support given to me during and after the bereavement.

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If you feel you are suitable for the position and would like to apply please forward a CV and covering letter to tim.preston@shrewsburytps.vwgtps.co.uk
No agencies, closing date 29.11.2013.

Highbury poultry have a permanent full time vacancy for an Agricultural Assistant/Trainee Fields Person based near Whitchurch.

The role would involve farm visits, data collection and record keeping.

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The successful candidate will assist professional staff undertaking assessment and design work in terms of plan based data as well as landscape research and desk study reviews. The successful candidate will have experience in using Autocad. They will also have an ability to provide written material with accurate detail.

Knowledge of planning application procedures and EIA processes would be an advantage, together with experience in map based data retrieval relevant to landscape character assessment.

In first instance please send a written covering letter and CV with a portfolio of work to:
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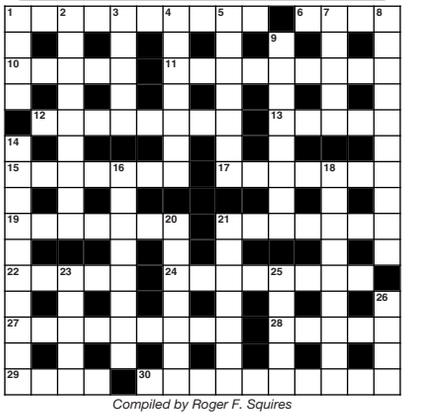

Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

1 Showy plant in a pot I set out (10)
6 Highly placed at work (4)
10 Ovals? Possibly rounds (5)
11 Rebelling against authority, gets run in perhaps (9)
12 Boring task for the affluent (4-2-2)
13 It's for putting on colour (5)
15 Rarely taken walks (7)
17 City in great trouble (7)
19 It's wrong to keep men in pain (7)
21 Handy place for a painter to mix his colours (7)
22 Flag on front of hospital in Dublin perhaps (5)
24 Route was changed, now lasts longer (8)
27 Not one's mother tongue, but could be pater's one (9)
28 Dwarf men go wild (5)
29 Where those for the ferry were always late (4)
30 A quality one considers oneself worthy to have (4-6)

DOWN

1 Letters following (4)
2 Peevishness I shall moderate (3,6)
3 Fishes in shallow water (5)
4 Disport around the photographer's equipment (7)
5 To put it succinctly, its horn is twisted (2,5)
7 Not those for which the sea is endless (5)
8 Tidy instruction for the anagram solver (3,2,5)
9 First form (8)
14 In bar seats, perhaps, but they won't be drinking (10)
16 May be seen round the trunk of this tree (3,5)
18 Put in for one stripe, perhaps (9)
20 Beat the counter-reformation (7)
21 Doesn't encourage delays (4,3)
23 Suggest I am to practise a trade, apparently (5)
25 Hedges need the top off - and sides (5)
26 A limited time to call (4)

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Always, 4 Accurate, 9 Tartar, 10 Predator, 12 Sire, 13 Spies, 14 Even, 17 Abbreviation, 20 Dissertation, 23 Open, 24 Coach, 25 Half, 28 Outsider, 29 Easter, 30 Naturist, 31 Exacts.

Down: 1 Artesian, 2 Wardrobe, 3 Year, 5 Current price, 6 Undo, 7 Active, 8 Errand, 11 April showers, 15 Genie, 16 Woman, 18 Gigantic, 19 Uniforms, 21 Cocoon, 22 Septet, 26 Liar, 27 Marx.

NEWS

01691 668094

Patients' booking cuts down wait time

PATIENTS in Wales who feel they need help from physiotherapy can now bypass waiting for an appointment at the doctors.

Powys Teaching Health Board is running a physiotherapy self-referral scheme across all physiotherapy departments in Powys.

Physiotherapist Brendan Walsh said: "This is for people who feel that they could benefit from physiotherapy but haven't had the chance to see their doctor to be referred yet.

"To access this service, people can pick up a form from their GP or local physiotherapy department.

"Your form will be assessed by a physiotherapist, and, if your referral is suitable, you will be sent a letter asking you to call and make an appointment.

"This scheme allows you to be in control of your condition, and to gain the help you need without having to wait for an appointment with your GP first."

Mr Walsh said the service is not suitable for those under the age of 16, or for those with a neurological, breathing or gynaecological condition.

He added: "If your referral is not found to be suitable, or the physiotherapist feels you would benefit from a visit to your GP first, you will be advised about what steps to take."

Police officers to be issued with body cameras on duty

POLICE officers in West Mercia could soon be carrying body cameras as a matter of routine.

Barrie Sheldon, deputy to Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore, said the force was awaiting the results of a trial being carried out by officers in Staffordshire.

He said it was possible the cameras could be rolled out, meaning every officer would be required to clip a camera to their uniform when on duty. Policing Minister Damian Green has called for cameras to be used more widely in England and Wales to protect officers from people who make false allegations. He said it would ensure the police record of what happened at an incident was absolutely accurate.

Mr Sheldon said: "West Mercia has already used body cameras while tackling violence.

"If an officer is carrying out some evidence based work it would be interesting to see if the cameras could contribute. It could also provide the public with more confidence in policing.

"We are aware it is being carried out in other areas but we'd have to discuss any changes with the chief constable. We will wait until the report comes out."

Mr Green said he wanted every police officer to have 21st century technology to do their job.

Evidence from the cameras would have the same status as a written statement from an officer who went to the scene of the crime.

Staffordshire Police says supplying its frontline staff with the cameras has helped cut crime and speed up prosecutions.

The force is spending £330,000 on 500 lapel-worn cameras for officers, PCSOs and volunteer specials. It will become the first in Europe to have every officer equipped with the devices.

But civil liberties campaigners warned the public could be filmed unwittingly if they are not aware the camera is on.

Nick Pickles, director of Big Brother Watch said: "As a bare minimum, no member of the public should be subjected to this kind of surveillance without being fully aware it is taking place, why and how they can access a copy for themselves."

by Graham Breeze

Test and treat scheme starts

A FOCUS on testing and treatment to help drug addicts and cut associated crime is being rolled out by West Mercia Police.

Barrie Sheldon, deputy police and crime commissioner, said drugs were one of the force's highest priorities. But he stopped short of backing calls by Durham Police Chief Constable Mike Barton for class A drugs to be decriminalised.

Mr Barton, who is the intelligence lead for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), said he believed decriminalisation of Class A drugs would take away the income of dealers and destroy their power.

Mr Sheldon, a former detective inspector, said: "Our focus is on testing and treatment for those who use drugs.

"The idea to decriminalise drugs lacks detail at the moment but anything is worth looking at if it provides a feasible solution. But we need proper evidence."

Twelve-year-old Thomas Stembridge with the dragon at Park Hall Farm, near Oswestry. *Picture: Peter Flemmich*

Dragon roars at tourist attraction

A FIERY red dragon has flown into a county tourist attraction.

He travelled from the British Ironworks Centre at Aston, Oswestry, to the nearby Park Hall Countryside Experience where he will greet young visitors at the entrance.

Rachael Mottram from Park Hall, which features a range of attractions including a farm, said: "He is a magnificent creature.

"I am sure he will make a lasting impression upon all who see him."

Further information on Park Hall Farm and its various attractions can be obtained by logging on to the website www.parkhallfarm.co.uk

Junction campaign gathering supporters

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to improve safety at a junction where an elderly woman was injured.

More than 2,000 people have joined the Facebook group Action for Llynclys Crossroad since it was set up last week. Members of the group are calling for traffic calming measures at the junction on the A483.

Sheila Harris said: "I've lived in Llynclys all my life. The corner is lethal. We've tried before to get a roundabout."

And Liz Darrall said: "It is a nightmare having to negotiate this crossroads. Something should have been done years ago to make it less dangerous – roundabout, traffic lights, anything.

"I wrote to the Highways Agency about it years ago and they did reply saying that because there had been no fatalities it wasn't considered a priority."

But other group members believe speed cameras and a lower speed limit would do more to improve safety than roundabouts and traffic lights.

Nathan James Bartram said: "Shotatton Crossroads is a great example, an active speed camera with a 40mph speed limit. No roadworks needed, no money spent on altering the junction, just a yellow box and a couple of 40 signs."

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CHRISTMAS

Festive night of fun on the streets at live event

Advertisement feature

CHOIRS, music groups, a silver band and street entertainers will be filling Oswestry with festive cheer at its annual Christmas Live event.

Oswestry Christmas Live will be held on December 6 in the town centre and in Cae Glas Park.

Porthywaen Silver Band will be playing carols, supported by local choirs and musical groups, and street entertainers will be performing throughout the evening.

Bargains

Children will be invited to take to the synthetic ice rink in Festival Square, and the town's Central car park will be taken over by an enormous fairground with rides for all the family.

Meanwhile, as well as being open for late night bargains, the indoor market will welcome a very special guest as Father Christmas takes up residence in his grotto.

Children will be able to meet Santa in exchange for a donation to Hope House Children's Hospice.

To round off the evening of celebrations there will be a massive firework display at Cae Glas Park at 9pm.

Oswestry Town Council events manager David Clough said: "Oswestry Town Council introduced this event to help promote Oswestry as a visitor attraction and to boost the local economy."

Crowds packed the streets for the Oswestry Christmas Live event last year.

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CHRISTMAS

Winter Festival starts Christmas countdown

Youngsters cheer as they greet Father Christmas on his arrival at Welshpool Town Hall last year.

WELSHPOOL is really building up to Christmas with festivities set to get under way early in December.

The annual Winter Festival is on Saturday, December 7, from 10am-4pm, with many stalls in the main street and in the Town Hall. There will also be street entertainment.

The first weekend of December in Welshpool is sure to get everyone in the Christmas spirit and Friday, December 6 sees the Christmas lights being switched on at 7pm.

This year the Winter Festival and

Advertisement feature

Market, centred around the Town Hall, Broad Street and High Street offers plenty of ideas for that elusive present while entertainers and musicians add to the atmosphere making for a more enjoyable shopping experience.

As well as all the usual shops open in town, at the Town Hall there will be a craft fair in the Corn Exchange with charity and community stalls in the Assembly Room, offering hand-made gifts, cards, paintings, cakes plus much more, all from 10am-4pm. The Market Village offers a diverse range of goods from records and CDs to beds and linen, from plants to toys and tools.

All this, and during the day there will be entertainment in the form of our very own market musicians and visits from "Geoff & Ester", Melomanics and The "Muppets" Band.

Even Father Christmas will be there with The Snow Queen and special friends.

The Street Market will be extended to include many different traders offering a variety of goods and entertainers to give the day a truly festive atmosphere.

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Dealers for Neff Appliances

Double the misery after village hit by roadworks

by Sue Austin

ROAD closures are bringing misery to people living in villages on the Shropshire/Mid Wales border, with motorists being diverted around country lanes while major work is carried out.

The A495 in Meifod, near Welshpool, is closed in both directions at the Cae Robert junction because of sewer works by Enterprise. The closure is expected to last for three weeks.

Meanwhile, the main road from Oswestry into Llanrhaeadr is closed at the entrance to the village.

Diversions

Diversions are in operation for both closures., but residents have raised fears that the roadworks could have an impact on community life, with concerns people will be unable to see an upcoming amateur theatre production.

But major work on the historic Llansantffraid Bridge, which has been closed for repairs for much of the summer, on the B4393, are finally an end. The work has seen motorists forced to undertake a 20-mile diversion since contractors moved on to the site in July.

The bridge closure meant the direct route from the village to the main Welshpool to Oswestry road has been blocked off to motorists with only pedestrians allowed access over the river Vyrnwy.

Alan Jones, who lives in Llanrhaeadr, said that while the diversion in the village was not big it was around some very small lanes.

"The Tanat Valley theatre company is worried that if the diversion carries on until its production next month those coming from outside to see the show will struggle."

John Evans from Powys County Council said that work on Llansantffraid Bridge had ended at the weekend.

Roadworks on the B4580 in Llanrhaeadr have split the village in two forcing drivers on a long detour. *Picture: Ian Sheppard.*

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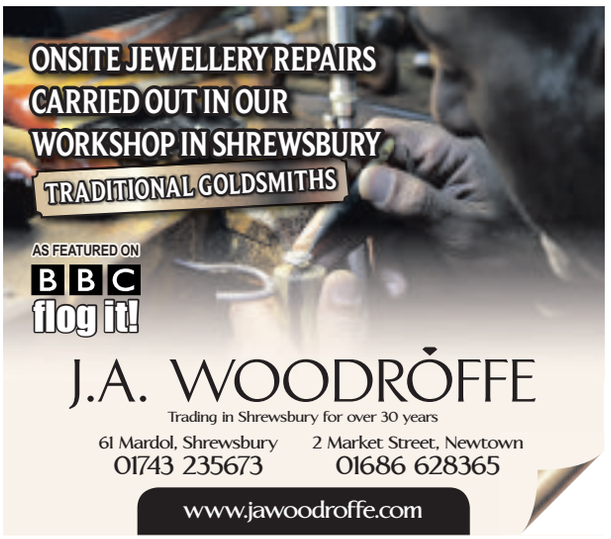

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Directors appointed at county hospital

TWO new non-executive directors have been appointed to the board of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Ian Davis and Alastair Findlay will both take up their three-year roles, which come with a remuneration of £12,000 a year, from tomorrow, Friday.

Mr Davis, from All Stretton, is a former director of corporate finance with Hoare Govett Limited, having previously worked in equity capital markets at de Zoete & Bevan Limited and in corporate finance at Baring Brothers & Co Limited. Prior to this he qualified as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse.

Since 2004, he has been a non-executive director at MIGT, an investment trust, and also chairman of the Audit Committee.

Mr Davis is also treasurer of the Church Stretton Arts Festival.

Mr Findlay has significant experience of working at board level in both the public and private sectors, with experience of NHS board work, having been on the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust Board for eight years. His early career was in the investment banking sector.

Mr Davies will replace Glen Lawes while Mr Findlay will take over from James Turner.

Fountain knowledge lacking

The Gobowen fountain standing close to the Cross Foxes Inn in the early 20th century.

Well, is it still there or not? And had it been moved across the road? This postcard was franked in September 1926 and, although it's difficult to tell one way or another whether the fountain is still there, we know by comparison with a different picture on the internet taken from the same spot that the fountain once stood close to that signpost.

WHAT became of the famous fountain in Gobowen?

by Toby Neal

A photo loaned by postcard collector Ray Farlow shows the fountain in the centre of the village in the first few years of the 20th century, with the Cross Foxes Inn on the right helping us get the exact orientation.

The franking date on the postcard is faint, but may be 1907 – in any event, it is around that time.

The message on the back was: "Many thanks for p.c. (i.e. postcard) received this a.m. Am much better now & hope to be in school on Monday. Kind regards. L.P. (the initials are a bit uncertain because of the handwriting.)"

It was posted to a Miss Schreiber, of 26 Oswald Road, Oswestry.

There seems to be some discrepancy about the origins of the fountain, which will no doubt have been a drinking fountain.

The Gobowen Online website has a different photo taken in The Square in 1913 in which the fountain is just about visible.

It says: "Gobowen is an old village, with open cast mining recorded as early as 1160. Known as Gobs, it is possible one of these workings could have been owned by a man called Owen, hence the name."

Referring to the fountain, it says that it "was opened on December 11, 1876, by Col. Lovett of Henlle Hall. In his speech he related the legend of Owen the Gow (blacksmith) who settled there after being attracted by the beautiful stream of water, providing yet another source from where the name could have been derived."

On the other hand, the Clwyd Family History Society website uses the same postcard photo as ours (dating it, incidentally, to 1905), and says: "The fountain was erected on the site of the old market cross in 1862."

So did it go up in 1862? Or was it 1876?

Now to another puzzling aspect. The Gobowen Online website has a second photo of the fountain taken from a virtually identical location as our second photo, which is a postcard franked in September 1926.

Distinctive

The photo on the website shows the fountain, complete with its distinctive lamp, standing outside the building in the middle.

Our photo shows a signpost at that location, with a huddle of people underneath, and unfortunately it's not clear enough to tell whether the fountain is still there. But in any event, was the fountain at some stage moved from its spot near The Cross Foxes, across the road to a new location? Or is it an illusion caused by the angle at which we're looking?

Lastly, does anybody know what ultimately became of the fountain, and when and why it disappeared?

And learned local historians from Gobowen, if this all sounds like we're throwing down the gauntlet to test your knowledge – you're right!

Drop us a line to tell us all you can tell us about the Gobowen fountain on **tneal@shropshirestar.co.uk** or, of course, at our postal address.

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Freemasonry in Oswestry
The Lodge of St Oswald is holding an "Open Evening" on Friday 15th November next from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at Freemasons' Hall, Roft Street, Oswestry.
Any gentlemen, and their spouses or partners, who may be interested in finding out more about Freemasonry in general and its involvement in Oswestry in particular, are cordially invited to attend and they will be welcomed by members of the Lodge.
Light refreshments and a bar will be available.

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£500 is raised for guide dog charity

SUPPORTERS of a guide dog charity have raised more than £500 during a dedicated charity week.

Oswestry Guide Dog Fundraising Group has thanked supporters after £522 was brought in during Guide Dog Week at the beginning of October.

Booka Bookshop, Milanos, Petworld, The Heritage Centre and Mile End Information Centre sold pin badges for the charity, and a coffee morning was held in the town's market, with many stalls having collection buckets and donating prizes for a raffle.

The group's next event is a Christmas quiz night at Oswestry Cricket Club on November 15. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Teams of up to four can enter for £10.

A fashion show will then be held at Edinburgh Woollen Mill, The Cross, on November 28. Tickets are £5 to include light refreshments. Call (01691) 662644.

Appeal thanks

REVEREND Sarah Burton, rector of Whittington and West Felton parish churches, has thanked everyone who contributed to their harvest appeal. This year's appeal has raised funds for Under Tree Schools. The collection raised £162 for the project.

Power line won't have major impact on view, says Manweb

A 22-MILE overhead power line linking a windfarm and substation in mid Wales would not cause a major impact to the landscape, developers claim.

SP Manweb's plan to build the power line from the existing Llandinam windfarm to the substation in Welshpool is currently part of a public inquiry being held in Welshpool.

The company has now updated its environmental statement in relation to the application, which would see 382 wooden poles built to support the line. The report says only minor visual impact would be caused along the route and work would be carried out to lessen the impact should it get the go-ahead following the inquiry.

by Andrew Morris

The inquiry is into plans to build windfarms in Llanbadarn Fynydd, near Llandrindod Wells; Llaithddu, near Newtown; Llandinam, near Llanidloes; Llanbrynmair, near Machynlleth; Carnedd Wen, near Machynlleth; along with the a 132kV overhead electric line.

The plans are being fought by The Alliance group, made up of 21 organisations together with Powys County Council.

Concedes

SP Manweb's report concedes that the line would pass though some of the "richest cultural heritage landscapes" but says the overall effect would only be moderate.

It says: "The proposed overhead line from the Llandinam Repowering Wind Farm to the Welshpool grid substation, some 35 km long, adopts a course to the south and east of the Severn Valley which takes it past and through some of the richest cultural heritage landscapes in Mid Wales."

It adds: "Inevitably during the operational life of the proposed overhead line, it would have an indirect visual effect on a significant number of designated and registered assets." The report identifies four areas where there will be "minor to moderate adverse effects". The part of the inquiry dedicated to the overhead power line will be held on January 21, 2014 at the Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool from 10am.

Call for donor opt-out advice

MORE needs to be done to help people find out how they can opt out of new organ donation legislation in Wales.

Russell George, Montgomeryshire AM, said he had been contacted by people from across Mid Wales who want to know how to opt out of the ruling.

From December 2015 in Wales organ donation will be presumed upon people's death unless each individual decides to opt out beforehand.

Mr George said: "Many constituents have contacted me over the summer with strong views and all deeply worried about how this new law will be implemented and how they will be affected.

"One lady told me she thought the law was an 'invasion' and 'violation' of the privacy of her body; another gentleman said it was tantamount to 'organ theft.'

A Welsh Assembly spokesman said a campaign raising awareness of opting out will be launched shortly.

Arts and crafts to go on sale

THE Project Group in Oswestry has produced a range of artwork and crafts to be sold in a sale at its Cross Street headquarters on November 27 from 10am to 2pm. Members of the group Karolyn Lewis, left, and Kay Marsland, take a look at some of the items.

Staff and councillors raise cash for forces

OVER £400 has been raised by Powys County Council staff and councillors for a charity that provides lifelong support to the Armed Forces and their families.

The chairman of Powys County Council, Councillor John Brunt, hosted The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association's (SSAFA) Big Brew Up where staff and councillors bought cups of tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits.

The fundraising event is the SSAFA's biggest, easiest and most enjoyable fundraising mission of the year. SSAFA is a charity which provides practical support and assistance to servicemen and women, veterans, and their families, every single day of the year.

"I would like to thank everyone who supported the SSAFA's Big Brew Up last week," said Cllr Brunt.

"I'm pleased that we were able to raise over £400 and this will be handed over the local branch of the SSAFA."

Group meeting

THE next meeting of the Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group will be tomorrow (Friday) in Oswestry Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Mike Emery will speak on The Poulton Research Project. Call (01691) 690184.

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Foodbank volunteers bag it up for funds

ORGANISERS of a foodbank have used a day of bag packing in a supermarket to remind people that it needs money as well as food donations to provide its services.

Volunteers from Oswestry and Borders Foodbank carried out the bag packing in Sainsbury's in Oswestry, bringing in about £500 for the charity.

Phil Simpson, project manager and trustee, said the collections were necessary to help keep the service running.

"Although we mainly collect food we unfortunately do need money as well because we operate premises in Beatrice Street," he said.

"We don't have paid staff, they're all volunteers, so it's really just to raise funds to keep operating. It's really just the cost of the building and some printing costs.

"Usually these collections raise about £500, which is great because it's one month's rent.

"Our other money comes from individuals and churches."

Bag packer Ron Jones, whose wife Monica volunteers twice a week at the foodbank, said: "We've had a lot of takers. Most people are very grateful for the help."

The collection was the third at Sainsbury's, which keeps a trolley for food donations in its foyer.

Musical company created out of quirky twist of fate

IT WAS fate that brought Tracy Knowles and her husband, Clive, to Oswestry 11 years ago.

Since then she has immersed herself in the life of the local community and, despite her children's initial horror at moving to the "back of beyond" the whole family now count Shropshire as their home.

Today Tracy is not only part of the family business, British Ironworks, at Aston on the A5, but she also runs the Very Nice Production Company which is known for its musical evenings that have raised thousands of pounds for charity.

The couple moved to Oswestry from Coven Heath in Wolverhampton.

"I always like to think it was fate that brought us here," she said.

"Clive was travelling along the A5 to see a business client in Oswestry when he noticed a For Sale sign being put up at the house. He drove down the drive, knocked on the door and the elderly couple who lived there invited him in. He sat at their kitchen table drinking a cup of tea and eating freshly baked cake and fell in love with the house."

"We had no intention of moving and the three children, teenagers, were horrified when we told them what we were doing, thinking they were moving to the back of beyond. Today they all think of Shropshire as their home!

As her husband began the task of moving his British Ironworks business, Tracy – who had been involved in amateur operatics in the West Midlands, joined a musical theatre group.

But she found that the organisation wasn't for her.

"In many musical societies, the opportunities to shine are limited to the number of parts available and very often that can be just a select few parts for a select few people.

"I believe that everyone has a talent, and that everyone should have a chance to fulfil their dreams, no matter what their strengths and weaknesses. I wanted to create the ideal musical society, where everyone has a part to play and knows they are an important piece of the whole process."

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE
with Sue Austin

"I decided, on a whim, to try to set up another group. One day I just picked up the phone rang the Marches School and booked the hall. Then I rang my mum and said, "what have I done". I had no show and no people to appear in it."

In just a few weeks she had recruited some like-minded people in Oswestry and encouraged people she knew in Staffordshire to help her out and the first Take the Mike night was staged.

Since then the Very Nice Production Company has gone from strength to strength.

Rather than produce one piece of musical theatre, the Very Nice Production Company puts on musical evenings, with songs from the shows, sketches and cameos.

"We called the first few, Take the Mike nights to help us become known. I always feel that every single member, whether acting on stage or behind the scenes, front of house or even selling tickets, is a vital piece of the jigsaw."

Tracy Knowles from the Very Nice Production Company in the rehearsal studio near Oswestry. *Picture: Peter Shah.*

Tracy said one of the aims of the Very Nice Production Company was to help good causes.

"Our primary aim is to entertain, have fun and in doing so, help to raise money for local charities and community events. Over the years we have raised over £13,000 for Hope House in Oswestry. We have been able to assist in raising money to purchase a Water Bowser for the Kibera Slum in Nairobi and have helped raise money for Cancer Research by performing at a Cancer Research Charity Evening. We have performed in a number of local events, including the Snowman Run, Moreton Park Garden Centre and in local nursing and retirements homes.

"We helped the West Felton Women's Institute to celebrate its 90th birthday, and St Oswald's Church in Oswestry to raise funds to repair the roof."

With the youngest performer just four years old and the older ones in their 70s the company has a diverse group of members.

"I never cease to be stunned by the personal growth and talent that seems to emerge from these fascinating people. Their energy, enthusiasm and commitment is quite breathtaking at times and the whole group has become my greatest delight."

Deal bid to keep town's loos open

COUNCILLORS in Llanfyllin are hoping to strike a deal with bosses at Powys County Council in a bid to keep the town's toilets open.

The toilets are at risk of closing because the county council does not want to run them any longer but the town council is reluctant to take them on until essential repairs are carried out.

Town councillors agreed to go back to the county council again with a compromise in that they would take on the running costs of the toilets as long as the county council repaired the drains.

A meeting was told the estimated annual running costs of the toilets could be as much as £10,000 per year.

Mayor Ann Williams said she had been speaking to neighbouring areas.

She said Llansilin had agreed to maintain its toilets and the annual cost was about £1,000 which included cleaning three times a week.

Councillor John Brautigam said many people in Llanfyllin had become frustrated that the town could soon lose the toilets.

He said: "I have been pestered about 'what are you doing about the toilets' and it looks as though we are doing nothing.

"I would be quite happy to run the toilets for a year or 18 months using our reserves."

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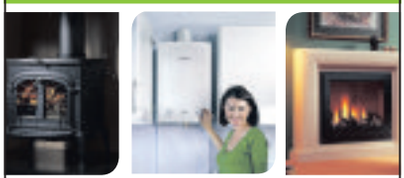

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Students see how money is being used

TWELVE students from Ellesmere College have travelled to Africa to see first hand how the money they have raised is making a difference.

A group of sixth form students from Ellesmere College visited the Monduli Green project in Tanzania, which works with local communities to make improvements for young children.

They spent 10 days helping with some of the projects.

The main part of the trip was spent at Olarash Primary School where they worked to improve the standard of the classrooms.

Beatrice Roberts, a lower sixth student at the college, said: "Visiting Tanzania was certainly a culture shock from my point of view, but one that I will never forget.

"It was wonderful to greet the young children of the school every morning as we arrived.

"I felt sad leaving the school, especially knowing that for some of those children the end of primary school would be the end of their education."

The students worked in the classrooms plastering, painting walls and windows and outside digging trenches to lay water pipes.

The college has been supporting the project for several years with a Christmas Fair and other events

Morris dancers ask MP to give it a try after remarks

NORTH Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has been challenged to try Morris dancing – after apparently suggesting that the English tradition is not worthy of European Union cash.

by Graham Breeze

Mr Paterson, the Environment Secretary, has annoyed Morris dancers across the country by saying that he would apply a "Morris dancing filter" to ensure money was not spent on inappropriate schemes under the reformed Common Agricultural Policy.

Morris dancers from the county accused Mr Paterson of lacking understanding. John Kirkpatrick, who founded The Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish groups in Bishop's Castle, said: "It's a stupid thing to say. Unfortunately Morris dancing is always high on the list for ridicule like this.

"I would like to see Mr Paterson have a go before making remarks like this."

Mr Kirkpatrick said Morris dancing was an important part of English heritage.

He said: "Morris dancing is something which is uniquely English and we should be proud of it rather than having derogatory remarks made about it.

Mr Paterson's comments came at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. He said: "What I also want to put in place is what I call a Morris dancing filter. There have been mistakes in the past and I want to make absolutely sure they are good schemes that deliver good worthwhile projects that are good for the economy and good for the environment."

Mark Harris, a member of The Ironmen and Severn Gilders, based in Ironbridge, said Morris dancing across the country is booming with thousands of youngsters now getting involved.

He said: "It's not just a lot of bearded old blokes dancing a bit. There are some great youth teams out there now who are showing how it can be done.

Commenting on the new CAP Mr Paterson said: "The Rural Development Programme has transformed the prospects of thousands of rural businesses, created jobs and boosted the rural economy. However, there have been times in the past where funding has been spent on projects with no obvious economic benefits.

Small mammal magic for youngsters

Hannah Farley from Shropshire Wildlife Trust helps Eve and Jake Mitchell at the Trust's children's event. *Picture: Laura Dutfield.*

CHILDREN got to look at their favourite animals – from the inside out – thanks to Shropshire Wildlife trust.

Insides Out, which took place at The Boathouse in Ellesmere, gave children a chance to examine skulls and bones.

They also got the chance to play detective and look at the remains found in owl pellets.

Hannah Farley, of the trust, said: "I think the children learnt a lot from it. "They didn't know what owl pellets were so they were surprised when they found out they come out of their mouth.

"They were very interested in finding out what was in them and we found parts of voles and shrews in there."

Mrs Farley said the trust hold events at The Boathouse during most school holidays and said the turn out was very good. She was helped out by Cath Price, who is a small mammal expert who works at The Boathouse.

Mrs Farley said: "Cath helped out massively because she is an expert so she could explain to the children what they were seeing, and she helped them identify which teeth were which."

Tuesday's event was attended by 24 children aged between three and 11.

Friends of hospice raise £500 at event

ELLESMERE Friends of Hope House raised almost £500 at a recent coffee morning which was held at the Comrades Club, Ellesmere.

Across the Pond, a local business, provided a selection of scarves and jewellery for sale, and a cake stall saw a brisk trade.

Visitors also had the opportunity to buy Hope House Christmas cards and win a prize on the tombola stall.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were provided at the meeting, which took place on October 19, and the raffle was also well-supported.

Averil MacDonald, chair of the group, said she was delighted by the support given to Hope House by the people of Ellesmere.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of local people in these difficult times." She also thanked Ellesmere College for its continued support."

Society meeting

OSWESTRY Civic Society will hold its next meeting on November 11 at St Oswald's Parish Centre, Broad Walk, Oswestry. Designer and craftsman Ben Gardiner will talk about the journey "from a bungalow to an eco house". The meeting is at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

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Welcome to Esthetique Dental

ESTHETIQUE DENTAL PRACTICE opened its doors in March 2013. It is set in an idyllic location in Shropshire just off the main A49 and within easy reach of patients in all areas of the county. The practice has been designed to provide a calm, relaxing and discreet environment. There is plenty of on-site free parking available.

Led by Thomas Norlin (DDS, Odont Lic, Dipl) and Emily Wright (BDS), Esthetique Dental's services range from preventative and general dentistry for all the family through to cosmetic and reconstructive dentistry, such as dental implants. Patients are always given sufficient time for their appointments so there is time to discuss treatment; and they are never made to feel rushed. The team understand how some patients may feel uneasy about their visits. The team take pride in making the experience as relaxed and as positive as possible.

The practice believes that preventive care and education is the key for good oral health for both adults and children. Thorough dental examinations are provided which include checking the overall health of your teeth and gums. Performing oral cancer screening and taking X rays when necessary as well as utilising cameras to improve patients understanding of their oral health. Patients are then advised on the best ways to help prevent decay and gum disease or treat them early before problems advance.

For those patients that are looking to improve the beauty of their smile, perhaps considering tooth whitening, cosmetic orthodontics, dental implants or amalgam removal. Thomas and Emily have many years' experience in cosmetic dentistry and will spend time to find the solution that's right for you.

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TV show place for dancer Jan, 22

WHEN Jan Mayer trained as a professional dancer she never imagined she would be fighting it out in a television show to become the face of Max Factor, one of the world's best know beauty brands.

The 22-year-old, from Ellesmere, has made the final 24 in a new series of Naomi Campbell's *The Face* on satellite channel Sky living.

Each week the contestants take part in real life fashion campaigns and photographic shoots, mentored by supermodels including Erin O'Connor and Naomi Campbell.

She was sworn to secrecy about her role and still cannot say how she fared.

Miss Mayer trained as a dancer at the Hammond School in Chester, then graduated from Middlesex University with a degree in professional practice of the Arts in 2010.

She made her performing debut working for American based agency Jean Ann Ryan aboard cruise ships, then at casinos in the Algarve.

"In *The Face*, Naomi Campbell isn't looking just for a girl with a pretty face, but for contestants who have the whole package," she said.

"Being a competitive performer, I'm always up for a challenge."

Bird watching warms the heart as temperatures fall

ON THE WILD SIDE

by Ben Waddams

NOVEMBER may be dank, dreary and send thermometers down and energy bills up, but for wildlife it can be quite a bumper month.

Many species look forward to late autumn. Small mammals such as voles and shrews are bolstered by their summer baby booms. And with the dying back of vegetation, this month can be the easiest in which to spot them.

Worms are busy dragging fallen leaves into their lairs beneath the soil for crucial recycling whilst up above, squirrels are consumed with acorn caching. Oaks are one of the last deciduous trees to hang on to their leaves and it is this species that now takes over as the most spectacular of the autumnal colours.

However, there is one group of animals for which November is synonymous – birds. Great flocks of fieldfares, redwings and waxwings invade from Scandinavia and as the insects begin to drop away in number either through death or hibernation, our resident garden birds become ever more frantic in their search for food.

This month sees the first frosts arrive and in an attempt to stave off hunger, birds flock together, sometimes regardless of species, in order to increase their chances of coming across a food source. Of course, if you're not already doing so, now is a great time to start feeding birds in the garden but we'd also do well to remember that it's not all about food.

Water is an element just as key to bird health and survival and making sure you provide a birdbath or equivalent, will help to attract those roving flocks to your garden. I've been pleasantly surprised to see large numbers of pied wagtails visit my neck of the woods and they haven't been there for the food. A ring of house sparrows was this morning gathered around our circular pond in order to drink, bathe and preen themselves (although it abruptly poured with rain a few minutes after they left). And the resident male blackbirds have been busy washing in the old Victorian sink beneath the bird table, sunning themselves next to perhaps the most verdant greenery left in the garden, the strawberry patch.

Sundrenched – by Ben Waddams.

But do remember to clean your bird baths. You may be familiar with the nasty disease, bird pox. Especially prevalent in chaffinches and great tits, this disease is easily observable and takes the form of legions and growths around the bird's mouth and eyes. Whenever such birds appear at your feeders, feeder hygiene is especially important. Clean the feeders every time you fill them, and pay particular attention to the perches and the seed ports.

And of course the same applies for your birdbath. Regularly changing the water, scraping off layers of algae, dead leaves and bird droppings will all help in the fight against this disease. You can use household disinfectants, but make sure that you rinse the bath out thoroughly to remove any traces of chemicals.

It's all very well providing food and water to your garden visitors but hygiene should always be considered. After all, the pleasure one can get from birds of all shapes and sizes, from the UK and abroad is something to really warm the heart in November… that is, as long as it's done correctly.

See Ben's latest prints and artwork at the Fair in The Square, this Saturday, Shrewsbury town centre.

Store staff recruiting teams to sing carols

SUPERMARKET staff are on the lookout for groups to entertain shoppers with carol singing this Christmas.

Sainsbury's in Oswestry is inviting groups to take part in a carol singing event with the option to raise funds for local charities.

The event will take place on December 14 and 15 as part of a nationwide carol singing event held in Sainsbury's stores across the UK.

During the two days, the store will switch off all in-store music to make way for local carol singing choirs.

Local residents, including professional choirs, singing families, friends and regional groups including schools, charities, community clubs and hospices, will have the option to raise funds for the store's local charity partner Qube or a local charity of their choice.

Lora Jones, spokeswoman for Sainsbury's Oswestry, said: "We're encouraging local residents and groups to get involved.

"Everyone from the area is welcome to apply and we're delighted to offer our customers the chance to help us spread the festivities in-store with some traditional Christmas classics."

Singing groups will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis.

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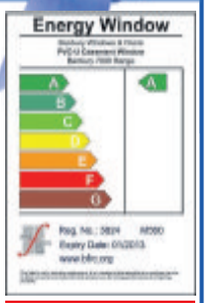

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Kipling's story will come alive on stage

The Tanat Junior Theatre is presenting an adaptation of The Jungle Book. Pictured are the cast on stage.

A MOVING adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's famous *Jungle Book* will be performed on stage in a village on the Shropshire border.

by Sue Austin

The next Tanat Theatre production will take place in Llanrhaeadr ym Mochant, near Oswestry, from tomorrow (Friday) and will be put on by the junior members of the company. Gaynor Richfield from the group said the production would be an adaptation true to Kipling's book.

He said: "Do not expect to see the Disney version of song and dance.

This is an adaptation for all ages, from primary to pensioners."

Performances will be held at the Green School Theatre in Llanrhaeadr on November 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7pm and there will be matinee performances each Saturday at 2.30pm.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children and are available from The Paper Shop, Post Office and Greatorex Stores in Llanrhaeadr and Upstairs Downstairs, Oswestry or by calling (01691) 860497.

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Tallis Scholars due to perform at church

CLASSICAL music fans have something special to look forward to this week as acclaimed ensemble The Tallis Scholars will be performing at Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry, this Saturday.

The event is part of the ensemble's 40th anniversary celebrations, having been founded by their director Peter Phillips in 1973.

To coincide with the celebrations the ensemble has not only issued special CD releases, but is also undertaking an extensive world tour, including trips to the USA, Japan and Australia.

The program called "Best of the Tallis Scholars" will include the finest pieces in the Scholars' vast repertoire. They will perform music by acclaimed composers as Tallis, Palestrina, Allegri, Whitacre, Part and Gibbons.

If you consider yourself a classical music buff or are just looking for a way to spend your Saturday night, then this is one you don't want to miss.

The concert starts at 7.30pm with tickets costing £18 or £9 for students. For more information ring (01691) 681135.

Kinokulture has a whole host of screenings this week and kicking things off is the National Theatre Live's 2010 broadcast of The Habit of Art, which is being shown tonight (Thursday).

The Tallis Scholars will be performing at Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry, this Saturday.

Based on Alan Bennett's acclaimed play, it stars Richard Griffiths, Alex Jennings and Frances De La Tour. Doors open at 6.30pm with tickets costing £12 for adults and £10 under 16s.

Singer songwriter Chris Dumville will performing at the Lowfield Inn, Marton on Friday. Armed with just an acoustic guitar and a harmonica, he plays a mixture of blues, soul and folk, as well as some interesting takes on old classics. It starts at 8pm and is free.

If you're in Welshpool on Friday, then head to the Royal Oak for music from Synergy. Formed in 2003 the group play a mix of Mediterranean music, including Flamenco and some well known classical pieces.

The gig starts at 9pm and is free.

Local blues rock band Full Circle will be performing at the Last Inn, Hengoed on Saturday night. There will also be support from Simon Meredith.

Kinokulture will show Rush on Saturday. Directed by two-time Academy Award winner Ron Howard, the film follows the legendary rivalry between James Hunt and Niki Lauda.

Doors open at 7pm with tickets costing £5 for adults and £3 for under 16s.

Kinokulture will present the live broadcast of Shakespeare's Richard II on Wednesday. Tickets are £12 for adults and £10 for under 16s. To book ring (0845) 2500517.

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Finance Example APR 11% Typical, Typical Example: Cash Price £8995.00. Deposit £895.00. Amount of Credit £8100.00. Arrangement fee £199.00. Total Charge for Credit £2109.20. Option to Purchase fee £159.00. Total amount payable 11303.20. 59 Monthly Payments of £173.47 followed by a final payment of £332.47. Duration of agreement 60 months. Typical APR 11%. Written quotation available on request. Subject to status.

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Finance Example APR 11% Typical, Typical Example: Cash Price £7995.00. Deposit £795.00. Amount of Credit £7200.00. Arrangement fee £199.00. Total Charge for Credit £1880.60. Option to Purchase fee £159.00. Total amount payable £10,074.60. 59 Monthly Payments of £154.66 followed by a final payment of £313.66 Duration of agreement 60 months. Typical APR 11%. Written quotation available on request. Subject to status.

CARS UNDER £140 a MONTH

2012 (12) NISSAN MICRA 1.2 Visia 5 Door Hatchback SILVER, 10646 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Passenger Airbag, Drivers Airbag, Power Steering, Air Conditioning, One Owner, Full Service History, Gorgeous and Superb Value. Part Exchanges welcome. ..... £6995.00*NISSAN WARRANTYUNTIL MARCH 2015*

2010 (60) RENAULT CLIO 1.2 TCE Dynamique TomTom 3 Door Hatchback WHITE, 12212 Miles, 1 Registered Keeper + Ourselves, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Passenger Airbag, Drivers Airbag, Power Steering, Air Conditioning, Alloy Wheels. Sat Nav. Full Service History. Stunning! Part Exchanges Welcome. . £6995.00

Finance Example APR 11% Typical, Typical Example: Cash Price £6995.00 Deposit £695.00. Amount of Credit £6300.00. Arrangement fee £199.00. Total Charge for Credit £2026.20. Option to Purchase fee £159.00. Total amount payable £9,220.20. 59 Monthly Payments of £136.12 followed by a final payment of £295.12. Duration of agreement 60 months. Typical APR 11%. Written quotation available on request. Subject to status.

DEAL OF THE WEEK

2008 (08) RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT Dynamique 3 Door Hatchback BLUE, 24633 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Panoramic Sunroof,Electric Mirrors, ABS, Air Conditioning, Power Steering, Drivers Airbag, Passenger Airbag, Alloy Wheels, SideAirbags, Cruise Control, Multi Stack CD, Full Service History, A Stunning Example. Part Exchanges Welcome, ... £4495

Finance Example APR 11% Typical, Typical Example: Cash Price £4495.00 Deposit £450.00. Amount of Credit £4045.00. Arrangement fee £199.00. Total Charge for Credit £1078.60. Option to Purchase fee £159.00. Total amount payable £5772.60. 59 Monthly Payments of £88.71 followed by a final payment of £247.71. Duration of agreement 60 months. Typical APR 11%. Written quotation available on request. Subject to status.

£88.71 Per Month!!

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FROM £92.67 A MONTH

2008 (58) FIAT DOBLO 1.4 8V Dynamic High Roof WHEELCHAIR ADAPTED VEHICLE 5 Door MPV BLUE, 41883 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, PowerSteering, Air Conditioning, Alloy Wheels, Wheelchair Adapted Vehicle with Twin Rear Seats and wheelchair/ mobilityscooter ramp. One owner, Full Service History. Part exchanges welcome. £4995

2008 (08) FIAT DOBLO 1.4 8V Dynamic High Roof WHEELCHAIR ADAPTED VEHICLE 5 Door MPV GREY, 47065 Miles, Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Power Steering, Alloy Wheels, Air Conditioning. Radio CD. Wheelchair Adapted Vehicle. Would also be suitable for carrying a Mobility Scooter. Full Service History, One Owner. Part Exchanges Welcome, Competitive Finance Arranged, Subject to Status. Fantastic Value, ... £3995.00

2007 (07) FIAT DOBLO 1.4 8V Dynamic High Roof WHEELCHAIR ADAPTED VEHICLE 5 Door MPV SILVER, 28568 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Power Steering, Air Conditioning, Alloy Wheels. Wheelchair Adapted Vehicle. Twin Rear Seats, Wheelchair Ramp. Would also be suitable for carrying a Mobility Scooter. Full Service History, One Owner. Part Exchanges Welcome, Fantastic Value, ... £3995.00

Finance Example APR 14.1% Typical, Typical Example: Cash Price £3995 Deposit £500.00. Amount of Credit £3495.00. Arrangement fee £199.00. Total Charge for Credit £754.16. Option to Purchase fee £159.00. Total amount payable £4948.16.47 Monthly Payments of £92.67 followed by a final payment of £251.67. Duration of agreement 48 months. Typical APR 14.1%. Written quotation available on request. Subject to status.

COMMERCIALS VEHICLES UNDER £182 A MONTH

2012 12 CITROEN BERLINGO 750 LX HDI LONG WHEELBASE TWIN SIDE LOADING DOORS DUAL PASSENGER SEAT WHITE, 14722 Miles, 1 Registered Keeper, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Power Steering, Side Loader, Ply Lined, Dual Passenger Seats, Passenger Airbag, Drivers Airbag. A very rare Long Wheelbase version. Still under manufacturers warranty. Part Exchanges welcome. Competitive Finance available, ... £8995 + VAT

2010 (10) FORD TRANSIT 85 T280S FWD T280 SWB Panel Van WHITE, 23464 Miles, 1 Registered Keeper, Central Locking, Electric Windows, ABS, Drivers Airbag, Passenger Airbag, Dual Passenger Seats, Ply Lined, Side Loader, Stereo, Superb Condition. Part Exchanges welcome. ..... £8495 + VAT

Finance Example APR 10.9% Typical, Typical Example: Cash Price (inc VAT) £10794.00 Deposit £2299.00. Amount of Credit £8495.00. Arrangement fee £199.00. Total Charge for Credit £2209.80. Option to Purchase fee £159.00. Total amount payable £13003.80.59 Monthly Payments of £181.73 followed by a final payment of £340.73. Duration of agreement 60 months. Typical APR 10.9%. Written quotation available on request. Subject to status.

COMMERCIALS VEHICLES UNDER £100 A MONTH

2010 (60) CITROEN BERLINGO FIRST 600 HDI DIESEL Car Derived Van WHITE, 35244 Miles, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Power Steering, Side Loader, Stereo, Superb Value., ... £4995+VAT

2010 (10) VAUXHALL COMBO 2000 CDTI 2000 1.3 CDTI SIDE LOADING DOOR 5 Door Car Derived Van WHITE, 41931 Miles, 1 Registered Keeper, Central Locking, Power Steering, Drivers Airbag, Ply Lined, Side Loader, Stereo, Pretty Van, ... £4995 + VAT

Finance Example APR 11.9% Typical, Typical Example: Cash Price (inc VAT) £5994.00 Deposit £1499.00. Amount of Credit £4495.00. Arrangement fee £199.00. Total Charge for Credit £1142.80. Option to Purchase fee £159.00. Total amount payable £7136.80.59 Monthly Payments of £97.28 followed by a final payment of £256.28. Duration of agreement 60 months. Typical APR 11.9%. Written quotation available on request. Subject to status.

FINANCE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES

2005 (55) FORD TRANSIT 300 SWB 90 TD 300 SWB DROPSIDE 90 TD Dropside Lorry WHITE, 26913 Miles, 2 Registered Keepers, Central Locking, Power Steering, Dual Passenger Seats, ServiceHistory, Stereo, Drivers Airbag. A Rare Low Mileage Dropside.Just in Stock and awaiting preparation. Lovely Condition. Pat Exchanges Welcome. ..... £5995 + VAT

2006 (06) RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 Authentique [Euro 4] 5 Door RED, 36262 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Power Steering, Drivers Airbag, Passenger Airbag,Rear Parking Sensors, One Owner, Full Renault Service History, Long MOT, Cambelt Changed, Taxed until April 2014, Superb Condition, Part Exchanges Welcome £3995.00

2006 (56) RENAULT CLIO 5 DOOR 1.6 VVT Privilege Automatic 5 Door Hatchback BLUE, 62996 Miles, 2 Registered Keepers, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front and Rear Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, ABS, Air Conditioning, Power Steering, Drivers Airbag, Passenger Airbag, Alloy Wheels, Cruise Control. Service History. Part Exchanges Welcome. £3795.00

2005 (54) RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 dCi 100 Expression ESTATE 5 Door Estate SILVER, 48043 Miles, 2 Registered Keepers, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Rear Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, ABS, Air Conditioning, Power Steering, Drivers Airbag, Passenger Airbag, Service History, Taxed. Low Road Tax, A Super Value Low Mileage, Diesel Estate Car., ... £2995.00

2005 (55) RENAULT MODUS 1.2 Expression 5 Door Hatchback BLACK, 43463 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, PassengerAirbag, Drivers Airbag, Power Steering, Air Conditioning, Full Service History, MOT October 2014. Taxed. Lovely Car, ... £2995.00

2004 (54) CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.6i 16V Desire 5 Door MPV BLUE, 72171 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Passenger Airbag, Drivers Airbag, Power Steering, Panoramic Roof, MOT June 2014, Radio CD, Part Exchanges Welcome, Competitive Finance Arranged, Subject to Status. Covered by our own comprehensive Warranty. Lovely Condition., ... £2995.00

2004 (54) VOLKSWAGEN BORA 1.6 16V S 4 Door Saloon BLACK, 94693 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Power Steering, Drivers Airbag, Air Conditioning, Service History, Taxed, One of our back row bargains to clear., ... £1995.00

2006 (06) PE.RODUA KENARI 1.0 GX 5 Door Estate GOLD, 22665 Miles, 2 Registered Keepers, Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Power Steering, Radio CD. Two Owners, A very genuine little car. Very clean. Scratch on front wing and bumper but otherwise excellent condition. One of our back row bargains to clear. An ideal shopping trolley. MOT and Taxed., ... £1495.00

2002 (02) HONDA CIVIC 1.7 VTEC 2 Door Coupe SILVER, 108376 Miles, Central Locking, Remote Central Locking, Front Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Power Steering, Air Conditioning, Alloy Wheels, Full Leather Interior, 12 months MOT, Full service history, Quite a rare model. One of our back row bargains to clear., ... £1195.00

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MARKETS

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Welshpool livestock market

NOVEMBER 4.

OTMS (68)

AN entry of 68 over 30-month cattle, met with a similar trade, an average of 108.22 pp/kg for the older cows, cows 48-72 months averaged 112.10 pp/kg, a bull over 72 months averaged 102.02 pp/kg, 48-72 month bulls averaged 108 pp/kg.

Under 48-month heifers averaged 152.74 pp/kg and steers under 48-months made 140 pp/kg. A Limousin cow weighing 815 kg from EE and DH and AS Oliver, Weeg Barn achieved the top market price of £1018.75; Messrs Oliver therefore receive the Briarwood Products Limited Prize of £25 for the highest priced older cow sold on the day.

A Friesian cow weighing 857 kg made £1002.69 from James Brooke, Weston House. A British Blue cow under 72 months weighing 619 kg made £860.41 from S Ifans, Tanyffordd.

Two pure bred under 48 months, Limousin heifers from DR Owen and Sons, Sanidlands weighing 711 kg and 707 kg made £1279.80 and £1272.60 respectively.

FAT CATTLE (10)

An entry of 10 fat cattle forward this week, averaged 224.55 pp/kg. A medium weight Limousin steer weighing 538 kg made 250 pp/kg. Medium weight heifers averaged 215 pp/kg; heavy weight heifers sold up to 257 pp/kg, averaging 222.55 pp/kg.

Three Limousin heifers from G Bound and Son, Cefn Bach weighed 584 kg, 582 kg and 528 kg made £1500.88, £1489.92 and £1320. Highest price pp/kg of the day was 257 pp/kg achieved by G Bound and Son, Cefn Bach with a Limousin heifer and therefore is in receipt of the Briarwood Products Limited prize of £25.

PRIME LAMBS (6805)

An entry of 6805 prime lambs, averaged 168.22 pp/kg.

Super Lights (1) to 139 pp/kg from M and H Evans, Tycerrig.

Lights (527) to 188 pp/kg from RT Watkins, Coed Y Deri. Others to 177 pp/kg from RA Lewis, Ty Gwyn. Average of 157.70 pp/kg.

Standards (1282) to 195 pp/kg from DR Owen and Sons, Sandilands. Others to 191 pp/kg from PL and PG Bumford, Rhosfawr. Average of 167.10 pp/kg.

Mediums (3495) to 189 pp/kg from DR Owen and Sons, Sandilands. Others to 186 pp/kg from EA Marston, New House. Average of 169.68 pp/kg.

Heavies (1322) to 177 pp/kg from EL Evans, Derlwyn. Others to 170 pp/kg from Mrs JM Price, Maeshyfryd. Average of 159.59 pp/kg

Over weights (140) to 159 pp/kg from CR and GE Morgan, Llwynmadoc. Others to 158 pp/kg from DP Casewel, Tanrhiw. Average of 145.79 pp/kg.

CULL EWES (3165)

An increased entry of cull ewes forward this week, with smaller ewes achieving a slightly better trade than in previous weeks.

Overall cull ewes averaged £41.56, and cull rams averaging £75.30. Topping the section at £250 was a ram presented by RL and ME Jukes, Tynybryn, closely followed was a ram from DL Jones, Ddol making £200. Top price for the ewes was £118 from CL and C Watkins, Bank Farm, others to £89 from IL and AJ Powell, Lower Cwmydalfa.

Weekly sale of cull sheep to follow immediately after the sale of prime lambs at approx 12 noon.

STORE LAMBS AND BREEDING EWES

Store Lambs: A fantastic entry of 1699 lambs, sold to an average of £52.25 at the 2013 prize sale of store lambs. We wish to express sincere gratitude to Mr Alan Brick of HJ Lea Oaks for sponsoring this year's sale, and Mr Wyn Morgan of Bryndu Farm for doing the honours of judging the quality sheep on offer.

First prize in the Texel class of 20 or more, went to WG and AFJ Lewis, Lower Pantglas realising £63 per head, purchased by Mr Bound, Penybank.

First prize in the 'Other Breeds' class went to J and R Davies, Old Hall for Lleyn X wethers achieving £74 per head, and purchased by Mr JM Rowlands, Dolwen.

Second prize on the day went to Cefncoed Farms, who once again turned out quality lambs which realised £73 per head.

Further entries saw tup lambs sell to £67, while mixed and tup lambs sold to £64.50.

More entries are expected next week, with buyers keen to purchase – sale to commence at 10.30am prompt.

Store Ewes: 480 breeding ewes were entered with a top price coming from F Davies, The Meadows of £99 for yearling ewes. £92 was the top price gained for Texel X Charollais ewe lambs from EL Evans and Co, Green Farm. TJ Pugh achieved the top price for full mouthed Welsh ewes of £72 per head.

Similar entries expected next week, with store lambs being sold from 10.30am, and breeding ewes from approximately 11.30am.

DAIRY CATTLE

A mixed entry of dairy cattle met with a good trade for the lots forward. Leading the way was a Quentin heifer from N Samuel, Lower Ystrad which made £2090. A heifer sired by Riverdance Sizzler from KS Jones and Sons, Lane Farm made £1910.

At £1900 was a heifer from MR Williams, Wern Holding. WA and EM Morris, Maestanyglwden presented two Huddleston Spookey sired heifers which sold for £1530 and £1750. RR Corfield and Co, Bronynant sold a heifer giving 261 ltrs for £1600. Overall, all heifers presented averaged £1590.

A breakdown of the prices achieved are as follows: £2000 + 1 lot; £1800-£1900 2 lots; £1600-£1800 2 lots; £1400-£1600 1 lot; £1200-£1400 1 lot; < £1200 2 lots.

Forthcoming sales of dairy cattle: Monday, November 18.

Forthcoming Sales.

Tuesday, November 19 – November Store Cattle Fair

Monday, December 2 – Christmas Dairy Show & Sale

Monday, December 9 – Christmas Fatstock, and In-Lamb Pedigree Beltex Sale

Monday, December 16 – Store Cattle

Friday, December 20 – Shropshire & Border Texel Club, In-Lamb Pedigree Texel Sale

Oswestry cattle auctions

OCTOBER 30

FAT CATTLE: (76)

A good firm trade for all clean cattle with the bulls again harder to place this week with other centres reporting the same. Some smart heifers in the entry regularly selling between 240p & 260p to a top of 274p. Top slots were 274p heifers, 230p bulls and 228p steers. Highest price in the lump was £1430 for a steer. A bottom book of 61p was achieved for a light plain Friesian bull. An overall market average of 197.5p was achieved.

If you have cattle to sell please contact the Auctioneer Jonathan Evans on 07971 002650 or the Market office.

Young Bulls (23) Overall Average 177p.

Light Bulls (3) average 142p (£570/head) selling to 200p from A Roberts & Co Buckley.

Medium Bulls (16) average 176p (£920/head) selling to 217p from E L Jones Bryngwaeddan.

Heavy Bulls (4) average 199p (£1260/head) selling to 230p from J W Jones & Partners Pantglas Isa

Steers (20) overall average 194p.

Light Steers (1) selling to 193p (£868/head) from I M & G Jones Tynycelyn

Medium Steers (3) average 174p (£915/head) selling to 198p from G R Jones Cefn Abertanat

Heavy Steers (16) average 197.5p (£1200/head) selling to 228p from G Watkins Brynfa

Heifers (33) overall average 213p

Light Heifers (1) selling to 180p (£594/head) from T E Davies Derwendeg

Medium Heifers (3) average 234.5p (£1065/head) selling to 274p from R W & J L Edwards Tyntwll

Heavy Heifers (29) average 212p (£1190/head) selling to 257p from A & J Powell Broniarth Hall

A good number and decent trade throughout. Please keep the numbers coming and thank you for your continued support.

FAT LAMBS: (3230)

A good entry of fat lambs on Wednesday, October 30. The trade through and through was very steady with the strong export lambs and the light lambs only in demand at a price. However clean continental lambs especially the standard weights of 32-36 kgs were in demand by customers looking at long term feeding hoggets for next March.

The 394 light lambs levelled at 154p peaking at 182p with 30kg lambs at £54.50 from W A & E M Morris Maestanyglwydden with continental lambs. The 933 standard lambs levelled at 168.5p with S Jones Tynewydd making 216p for a very posh continental lamb weighing 37kgs at £80.

The 1345 medium lambs averaged 166.5p with the top call of 205p from G & P W Rees Ivydale Farm with a 41kg lamb at £84. 444 heavy lambs averaged 159.5p up to 183p with top price per head being £86. Others to 159p average 147p, top call in the heavyweights was £92. Overall average 164.5p.

FAT EWES: (757)

A smaller entry forward but a marked increase in the trade with a much improved average of £37 and a top price of £74.50 for a pen of ewes from R H Buckley & Sons, Llangedwyn. 24 rams averaged £58 with a top price of £97 for a cracking Welsh ram from E Lloyd & Co, Llandrillo.

Please Note : All sheep entering the market must be tagged.

CALVES: (84)

A good show of continentals selling to a marginally sharper trade with a few more buyers attending today.

Friesians also sharper. British Blue Bulls topping at £440 (2 mo) from Messrs Reeves Meadow Farm, £372 & £348 from Messrs James Church Farm, £300 from Messrs Jones Maesderw. Limousin Bulls to £315 & £290 from Messrs Holland Ashes Farm, £314 & £305 from Messrs Davies Park Mill Farm.

Charolais Bulls to £398 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr, £380 from Messrs Rees Highfield Farm. Angus Bulls to £250 from Messrs James Church Farm. Limousin Heifers to £300 & £274 from Messrs Owen Bonciau, £268 from Messrs Lloyd Roberts Pennant Farm. British Blue Heifers to £276 from Messrs Davies Lower Fawnog, £260 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes, £254 from Messrs James Church Farm. Charolais Heifers to £255 from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf. Hereford Bulls to £218 & £214 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes. Hereford Heifers to £208 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes.

Friesian Bulls to £186 & £146 (2 mo) from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes, £110 from Messrs Williams The Stocks Farm, £96 from Messrs Edwards Lower Sweeney, £90 from Messrs Evison Rhydycyffin.

U72 & CULL COWS: (70)

A good entry of 70 cattle were very well sold with a strong demand throughout. The plain cows were perhaps not as fast as they have been but have been less everywhere these last few days. Top priced Cow 155p/kg, Stock Bull 131p/kg, Heifer 190p/kg. Steer 198p/kg top price overall £1625.40.

Cows

Limousin to 155p average 138.42p;British Blue to 136p average 119.92p

Friesian to 127p average 94.26p; Others to 135p average 98.42p

Heifers

Limousin to 190p average 131.84p; Friesian to 166p average 124.32p; British Blue to 176p

Steers

British Blue to 198p average 192.46p; Stock Bulls to 131p average 128.93p

70 Cattle averaged 120.68p/kg

STORE CATTLE: (160)

A decent entry for the last of the October sales was met with a strong trade and a total clearance reported. Top price if the day was £1380 (223p/kg) paid for a pair of Charolais x steers aged 20 & 22 months sold by C Jones & Son, Dolanog.

95 steers averaged £898 (195p/kg) with notable prices including:

W Clark & Son, Woolston sold Limousin x steers aged 17-19 months for £1330 (256p/kg) & £1150 (245p/kg). £1005 (242p/kg) paid for 4 Limousin x steers aged 11 months sold by H E Pugh, Kinton.

£810 (213p/kg) paid for a British Blue x steer aged 19 months sold by E M L Ward & Son, Llangedwyn.

59 heifers averaged £848 (197p/kg) with notable prices including: D W Roberts, Penycae sold an excellent show of Charolais x heifers aged 24-27 months for £1260 (229p/kg), £1250 (213p/kg), £1180 (215p/kg) & £1090 (216p/kg).

D G Ellis, Maesbury sold 4 Limousin x heifers aged 15-17 months for £980 (228p/kg), £935 (223p/kg), £780 (244p/kg) & £805 (206p/kg). E M L Ward & Son, Llangedwyn sold an excellent run of British Blue x heifers aged 18-22 months topping at £840 (227p/kg), £840 (200p/kg), £790 (214p/kg) & £700 (219p/kg).

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Gran Tourismo has best of 3 series saloon and touring

Drive time with Graham Breeze

BMW has been doing pretty well with the 3 Series so it's really no surprise to see the arrival of a Gran Turismo, offering the sporty dynamics of the saloon and versatility of the touring.

With a longer and taller body, and an increased wheelbase, the new BMW 3 Series Gran Turismo gets more interior space and load area volume from within a sporty, coupé-like form.

In the back passengers get a full 75mm of extra legroom and load capacity stretches from 520 litres to 1,600 litres, which amazingly for a car with such stunning looks, is bigger than in the Touring model.

There's a huge boot opening area and high-opening electric tailgate while rear seats can be split 40:20:40 for even more room.

In the cabin it's quickly evident that the Gran Turismo carries the same fixtures and fittings as the saloon and touring models – all typically BMW with a solid feel and with everything in just the right place.

Standard safety equipment includes six airbags and stability control, which incorporates ABS, cornering brake control, dynamic brake control and dynamic traction control.

And also standard on the test car, though optional on most of the range, is the active security package, with lane change and lane departure-warning systems. An alarm is also standard on every model.

The electric tailgate is high-opening and there's a large boot

There's a broad kidney grille up front with twin headlamps

Inside there's a typically BMW feel

Automatic start/stop and a selection of driving platforms including eco, comfort and sport were also fitted as well as rolling resistant tyres.

So what else make the Gran Turismo different from the rest of the 3 family?

There's a broad kidney grille and modified front apron with striking twin headlamps and LED accent lights reinforcing the sense of both width and presence.

Large air intakes below the headlamps emphasise the sporting character of the car, as do the aerodynamically motivated apertures for the curtains.

Key points of difference are the larger overall shape of the headlamps and a bonnet with smoother contours than the saloon and touring. Another identifying feature are the blades set into the outer air intakes of the front apron.

While at the back Gran Turismo is the first model to sport an active rear spoiler which at lower speeds retracts out of sight.

Power is sent to the rear wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox as standard, although BMW also offers an innovative eight-speed automatic as an option for all engine variants.

A sports version of the automatic gearbox is available as a further option, offering even faster gearshifts and steering wheel mounted paddles. Both gearboxes link up with the fuel-saving auto start-stop function.

On the road I found it better to leave the suspension in "comfort" mode, to get a smoother ride and found the model more comfortable the quicker it went. There was also a bit of road and suspension noise but not enough to worry about, though wind noise from the door mirrors was a little unexpected.

Top speed is 155mph and the Gran Turismo is quick to 62mph at 6.1 seconds.Combined fuel figures of 44.1mpg are impressive and CO2 emissions come in at 149g/km.

The Gran Turismo carries only a £1,300 price premium over the touring model, starting with the 320i SE at £28,830. But the model on test started at £34,000 and with the extras on board the price rocketed to £45,870.

Will it sell? Yes there are enough BMW fans out there to make the Gran Turismo a success.

Bumper to bumper

BMW 3 Series Gran Turismo

Model: 328i Luxury
Price: £34,000
Top speed: 155mph
0-62mph: 6.1secs.
Combined fuel: 44.1mpg
CO2 emissions: 149g/km

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2013 13	**VW TRANSPORTER CAMPER VAN** Metallic Dark Wood, 11,000 miles, Brand New Camper 4 Berth Conversion done by Gee Wagen, Oswestry, top spec, air con, cruise control, FSH	Due In

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2007 07 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER ELEGANCE 2.0 TDi 4x4 6 speed Manual, 7 seater, full leather, sat nav, 67,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH, Metallic Black **£9999**

2010 10 FORD FIESTA 1.6 TITANIUM 5-door. Manual, Metallic Red, 18,000 miles, one owner, FSH **£8,999**

2005 05 KIA SPORTAGE XE 2.0 CRDi Diesel 5-door. Blue Metallic,59,500 miles **£5,999**

2008 08 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 3-door Manual. Metallic Black, 39,000 miles, FSH **£4,499**

2011 11 NISSAN JUKE ACENTA 1.6 DCi Manual, Metallic Red, only 15,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH **£11,699**

2008 08 VW GOLF GT TDi 140bhp 2.0 TDi 5-door 6-speed Manual. Metallic Grey, full leather, privacy glass, 54,000 miles, FSH **£9,499**

2008 58 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SPORT 4MOTION. Champagne Silver, 38,000 miles **£13,999**

2010 10 VOLVO XC60 DS SE LUX AWD Metallic Bronze, full leather interior, manual, 1 owner, FSH **£20,999**

2011 11 PEUGEOT 207 VERVE 1.4 5-door. Light Metallic Blue, 24,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH**£6,999**

SPORT

Wynnstay Bowling Club prize winners with their trophies at Friday's presentation, with Graham Jackson extreme left and Club President Bill Roberts fourth from left. Picture by club member Geoff Armitage.

Wynnstay make special award

STAR of the show, at the Wynnstay Bowling Club annual awards presentation was former Manchester ship canal tug captain Graham Jackson of Trefonen, ***writes GRAHAM BREEZE.***

Although he was only a runner-up in the men's single final and a runner-up in the triples' finals, he shone by winning Captain Janice Allport's 'special' award for making an 'exceptional contribution' to the club, throughout the year.

Graham became the self appointed DIY background worker, repairing the posts, chains and, with fellow members of the green committee, in keeping the green in tip-top condition.

The award for being both the best 'support' member, as well as being the season's highest scorer, went to Pam Bridge.

The trophies were handed out by President Bill Roberts, at the presentation evening at the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry.

Presentation

Forty members had first enjoyed a superb meal, preceding the presentation and were later entertained by professional musician Mel Coote, who was excellent .

THE WINNERS WERE

Mixed Doubles: Judy Bristoll and David Parry-Jones, with runners up Steve Theobold and Pat Macdonald.

Non League Doubles: Pat Theobald and Janice Allport, with runners-up Steve Theobold and Cissie Morgan.

Triples: Pam Bridge, President Bill Roberts and Annette Jones, with runners up Ewald Getkahn, Norma Edwards and Graham Jackson.

Men's singles: Geoff Thomas, with runner up Graham Jackson.

Ladies singles: Barbara Peart, with runner-up Norma Edwards.

The best 'support member' and 'highest scorer' was Pam Bridge.

Captain Janice Allport's special prize for exceptional contribution to the club: Graham Jackson.

Rhyn suffer as the hosts adapt to wet conditions

WESTON RHYN lost ground on the leading pack in the Mercian Regional League premier division after suffering a disappointing 3-1 loss at windswept Ketley Town.

After a goalless first half, two goals from Neil Bradburn and one from Jack Harris in a 15-minute spell put paid to Rhyn who remain fifth in a very open league, but now five points off the pace.

"It was disappointing as it was 0-0 at half-time and we were controlling the game," said manager Matt Owen. "We should have been ahead but were not clinical enough, and conceded three goals in a 15-minute spell in the second half."

A strong wind and poor pitch made the going tough, but Rhyn started well only to literally be blown away in the second period, with a couple of goals coming from defensive lapses.

Steve Benyon did pulled one back late on, but it was too little too late, leaving Rhyn looking to bounce back at home to Allscott in the second round of the Shropshire Challenge Cup on Saturday (1.30).

MORDA UNITED'S home fixture against Wellington Amateurs reserves was a victim of the wet weather – and led to the club slipping to seventh in the Premier Division.

Club officials had been hopeful but an early morning pitch inspection at Weston Road coupled with a forecast of further rain led to an early postponement. Ironically the reverse of this fixture at Wellington last August was also postponed.

Morda now turn their attentions to cup action on Saturday when they have an intriguing home tie against in-form Childs Ercall in the Shropshire FA Challenge Cup (1.30pm).

The visitors are currently third in the Mercian first division but have games in hand over both sides above them.

Off the field, Morda's committee are currently planning a race night on Saturday, November 30 in the Morda Social Club.

The event will start at 4.30pm and admission will be free, while races can be sponsored for £20 and jockeys and horses can be sponsored for £2.

Further details available from any committee member.

Marksman Barton pounces again to earn Guils a point

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

TOP scorer Danny Barton bagged his 14th goal of the season in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance as Guilsfield gained a valuable away point with a 1-1 draw at a wet and windy Llandudno.

The Mid Wales visitors, looking to bounce back from their surprise loss to Llanrhaeadr in their last outing, took the lead two minutes before half-time courtesy of Barton, who continued his prolific form when pouncing to score after Dudno failed to deal with a free kick.

The second half became a battle against the elements as Eddie Jebb got the home side back into the game with a fine solo run and shot on 55 minutes.

With the Seasiders buoyed, the Guils dug deep and held out for a hard-earned point with keeper Dave Littleford standing firm between the posts.

LLANRHAEADR remain rock bottom – one of three teams on seven points – after going down 3-1 at home to Porthmadog in a keenly contested encounter blighted by some baffling refereeing decisions.

Challenge

There was little between the sides in a goalless first half, before Port scored twice early in the second half through Leon Newell on 58 and 61 minutes.

A penalty save from Darren Powell kept the hosts in the hunt after a harshly awarded spot-kick, while Dan Kelly was forced off following a poor challenge that went unpunished.

Llanrhaeadr pushed forward and gained their reward with a fine finish from Iwan Matthews who curled home his shot but Port sealed the win courtesy of Neil Thomas in injury time.

Despite the defeat, the home side could take heart from a spirited showing, and the fact they remain in touch with the basement pack. They have no league game this weekend.

Meanwhile, former Welshpool forward Jamie Breese gave Llanidloes Town a first-half lead at Caernarfon Town, but second-half goals from Steve Kehoe and Darren Thomas earned the Canaries a 2-1 victory.

Fourth-placed Caersws are back on track after winning 3-1 at Penycae, but should have returned more emphatic winners after spurning a string of golden chances.

Iwan Lewis headed the first on 14 minutes and Neil Mitchell glanced in a Graham Evans free-kick three minutes before the break.

Mark Griffiths made it 3-0 five minutes into the second period from a tight angle before Ian Oliver Davies pulled one back to give the hosts a glimmer of hope.

All kitted out – Oswestry Boys and Girls Football Club under-11 Colts have received at new kit, which was kindly donated by Jean Oakley who owns her own business called Sign and Design in Oswestry. Jean is pictured with the Colts manager Aaron Allen and the Colts team.

Leaders FC Oswestry draw a blank

Neil Davies clears the ball for Oswestry FC

UNBEATEN FC Oswestry Town saw their lead at the top of the Mercian Regional League division one trimmed to three points after drawing a blank against a decent Hanwood reserves team, *writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.*

After their emphatic 6-0 win the previous week against Oakengates Rangers, Town were unable to find the net last Saturday as they shared a goalless draw in far from ideal conditions at a blustery Venue Park Hall.

Town started brightly with their neat passing game helping to combat the wind but, as they started to take a grip on the game, it was the visitors who nearly took the lead as a thunderous strike left keeper Broc Dawson helpless but to his relief the ball rattled the crossbar.

The hosts responded well and striker Graham Dyke saw his super strike just miss by inches and Ben Williams also had a chance to break the deadlock.

At the interval, boss Nick Maguire rallied his troops hoping for a bit of luck to break the deadlock, and Town again started the second half well with midfielders Olly Jones and Tom Stedman pulling the strings.

Winger Graeme Kirkham was now getting more joy down the left side with Joe Evans overlapping well and chances fell to Ben Williams and Kirkham but the visitors held firm.

Dominance

Despite a convincing second half performance, Town were unable to make their dominance pay and the visitors were happy to take home a point.

Despite being frustrated, the Oswestry side still remain top of the league and unbeaten, with 10 wins and three draws, but Childs Ercall and Bishop's Castle are breathing down their necks.

Town now travel to Oakengates on Saturday in the second round of the Shropshire Challenge Cup, hoping for a repeat of the previous week's victory against the Telford side.

OSWESTRY VILLA, looking to get back on track after the previous week's disappointing 4-1 defeat to Brown Clee, were left kicking their heels at their clash at unbeaten Wroxeter Rovers was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Having slipped to seventh in the table, they will be out to bounce back in Saturday's trip to Wrockwardine Wood Juniors.

OSWESTRY VILLA RES did beat the weather but ended up defeated 2-1 at home to AFC Broseley in division two. They are in Shropshire Challenge Cup action at Rock Rovers on Saturday.

Winger Gary Windsor looks for a way to goal

PLACINGS

Shropshire County Minor Football League

Under 18: Meole Brace 1, Wrockwardine Wd 1; Nova 8, Broseley 1; Wem T 4, Prees FC 2.

UNDER 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wrock Wood	7	5	2	0	21	6	17
Nova Utd Youth	6	5	0	1	24	10	15
B'north Spartans	5	4	1	0	18	4	13
MD Tigers	5	4	0	1	12	10	12
Ellesmere Rngrs	4	2	0	2	9	5	6
Wem Town	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Broseley Youth	6	1	0	5	7	22	3
Shifnal Harriers	5	1	0	4	5	20	3
Meole Brace	5	0	2	3	8	14	2
Prees FC	7	0	0	7	9	26	0

PLACINGS

Mercian Regional Football League

Premier division: Church Stretton 4, Bridgnorth Reserves 2; Ketley Bank 3, Weston Rhyn 1; Prees 2, Allscott 2; Telford Juniors 3, Hodnet 1.

Division one: Bishops Castle Town 2, Childs Ercall 0; Dawley Town 3, Wrockwardine Wood Juniors 0; Oswestry Town 0, Hanwood Utd Reserves 0; Hopesgate Utd 1, Rock Rovers 3; Shawbury Utd Reserves 0, Oakengates Rangers 5.

Division two: AFC Wellington 3 ,Ludlow Town Colts 1; Highley Miners Welfare 3 ,Claverley 6; Impact Utd 6, Spalaig Britannia 1; Oswestry Villa Reserves 1, AFC Broseley 2; Wrockwardine Wood 7, Albrighton Juniors 0.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Telford Juniors	10	7	1	28	10	18	23
Oakengates Ath	12	7	3	31	16	15	23
FC Hodnet	12	6	4	20	17	3	20
Whitchurch Alp R	13	5	3	21	19	2	20
Weston Rhyn	13	5	5	26	24	2	18
Ketley Bank Utd	12	5	4	19	21	-2	18
Morda United	11	5	4	36	25	11	17
Church Stretton	11	5	4	23	20	3	17
Shifnal United 97	10	5	4	20	15	5	16
Ketley Town	9	5	4	15	18	-3	15
Prees	11	4	6	17	21	-4	13
Madeley Sports	12	4	7	16	27	-11	13
Wellington Ams R	10	3	4	15	21	-6	12
Allscott	13	1	7	12	27	-15	8
Bridgnorth T Res	13	1	8	15	33	-18	7

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Oswestry Town	13	10	0	53	9	44	33
Bishops Castle T	12	10	2	47	11	36	30
Childs Ercall	10	9	1	48	7	41	27
Hanwood Utd R	11	6	3	39	12	27	20
Rock Rovers FC	10	6	2	45	19	26	20
Dawley Town	12	6	4	38	30	8	20
Oswestry Villa	11	6	4	34	22	12	19
Clee Hill	11	5	2	30	19	11	19
Wroxeter Rovers	8	5	0	35	8	27	18
Brown Clee	11	4	6	26	28	-2	13
Meole Brace	10	4	6	19	58	-39	12
Oakengates Rgrs	12	2	8	15	42	-27	8
Wrock Wood Jnrs	12	2	9	15	49	-34	7
Shawbury Utd R	12	1	9	12	46	-34	5
Shrewsbury Utd	12	1	10	21	73	-52	4
Hopesgate United	13	0	11	18	62	-44	2

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AFC Broseley	13	11	0	76	14	62	35
Wrock Wood	13	11	0	70	17	53	35
AFC Wellington	12	8	3	71	27	44	25
Market D'ton Tgrs	12	8	3	51	22	29	25
Donnington S & S	11	7	4	56	29	27	21
Claverley	11	7	4	46	22	24	21
Impact	11	6	2	42	23	19	21
Ludlow T Colts	12	4	6	50	33	17	14
Spalaig Britannia	12	4	7	22	57	-35	13
Oswestry Villa R	12	3	8	16	36	-20	10
Highley Miners	11	1	7	25	38	-13	6
Shrewsbury Utd R	11	2	9	19	71	-52	6
Albrighton Juniors	11	1	9	17	55	-38	4
Denso	12	0	11	11	128	-117	1

Spar Mid Wales League

Division one: Aberaeron 2, Waterloo 1; Aberystwyth Uni 3, Montgomery 0; Berriew 6, Bow Street 1; Carno 4, Four Crosses 1; Llanfair Utd 10, Dolgellau 0; Tywyn Bryncrug 0, Llandrindod Wells 5; Welshpool 2, Builth Wells 1.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	g	Pts
Carno	11	10	0	1	30	11		30
L'drindod Wells	9	9	0	0	50	5		27
Berriew	11	9	0	2	45	12		27
Llanfair Utd	11	8	1	2	37	9		25
Waterloo	14	7	4	3	43	19		25
Aberaeron	12	7	2	3	24	10		23
Welshpool	14	5	1	8	23	38		16
Four Crosses	11	4	3	4	32	32		15
Llansanttfraid	13	4	1	8	23	34		13
Bow Street	11	4	1	6	15	28		13
Montgomery	12	4	1	7	15	35		13
Tywyn/Bryncrug	9	4	0	5	20	24		12
Aber Uni	9	3	0	6	17	20		9
Builth Wells	12	2	2	8	18	38		8
Dyffryn Banw	8	1	2	5	12	25		5
Dolgellau	13	0	0	13	8	74		0

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	g	Pts
Knighton	7	3	4	0	18	7		13
Rhosgoch	5	4	0	1	27	10		12
Presteigne	4	2	2	0	11	5		8
Hay St Marys	5	2	2	1	13	9		8
Abermule	5	2	1	2	7	6		7
Machynlleth	5	2	0	3	6	6		6
Talgarth	4	1	1	2	4	9		4
Bont	5	0	3	2	5	12		3
Kerry	6	0	3	3	11	23		3
N'bridge-on-Wye	6	0	2	4	6	21		2

E R JENKINS CUP
POOL A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	g	Pts
Hay St Marys	4	3	0	1	11	8		9
Presteigne	3	1	1	1	5	6		4
Knighton	3	1	1	1	4	6		4
Rhosgoch	2	1	0	1	5	3		3
Talgarth	2	0	0	2	4	6		0

E R JENKINS CUP
POOL B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	g	Pts
Machynlleth	2	2	0	0	12	3		6
Abermule	3	2	0	1	13	10		6
Kerry	2	1	0	1	8	5		3
N'bridge-on-Wye	2	1	0	1	5	5		3
Bont	3	0	0	3	4	19		0

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cefn Druids	13	11	2	0	32	5	35
Conwy Borough	13	9	3	1	34	13	30
Caernarfon Town	13	9	2	2	42	17	29
Caersws	12	7	2	3	29	19	23
Holyhead Hotspur	12	5	4	3	25	21	9
Rhydymwyn	13	6	0	7	23	32	18
Llandudno	12	4	5	3	27	18	17
Flint Town United	13	5	2	6	22	23	17
Porthmadog	13	5	2	6	26	27	17
Penycae	13	5	2	6	22	28	17
Guilsfield	13	3	6	4	20	22	15
Rhayader Town	13	3	4	6	17	27	13
Llanidloes Town	12	2	4	6	15	20	10
Buckley Town	13	0	7	6	18	31	7
Penrhyncoch	13	1	4	8	9	27	7
Llanrhaeadr YM	13	2	1	10	17	48	7

SPORT

Saints still struggling to get off the mark

BASEMENT strugglers St Martins are still seeking their first win of the season in the West Midlands League division one after being downed 4-1 at Gornal Athletic reserves.

The Saints had made the trip with one of their strongest line-ups of the season, but never really got going in the heavy conditions as Russell Brooks netted a hat-trick for the hosts.

Athough Gornal had the better of the first half, they were kept at bay with some good saves from keeper Jake Northwood, while the hosts almost went ahead when Sam Thomas rattled the bar with a good shot.

Brooks, however, put the home side ahead when roaming in to slot in a cross, but Keiran Barry had the visitors back on terms at the break when finding the net following a good run and cross from James Pound.

The Saints faded after the break after Brooks got his second following a poor header by Liam Bailey, before Anthony Cox and a third from Brooks late on sealed the win.

The league's basement side now face a daunting task when they host unbeaten high-flyers Bridgnorth Town at the Venue Park Hall on Saturday.

Meredith hits treble top for Churchstoke

HOT-shot Tony Meredith fired a hat-trick as Churchstoke continue to set the pace at the top of the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division two with a 4-0 win at Four Crosses reserves.

The leaders are four points clear of Bettws who were emphatic 8-2 winners against Berriew reserves, Barry Bellis bagging three of the goals.

In the Honda One, Meifod are up to third with a 1-0 win over faltering defending champions Caersws reserves, while leaders Llanfair reserves remain seven points clear despite their clash at Guilsfield reserves being postponed.

Results – Honda One: Abermule Res 1 Trefonen 3; Meifod 1 Caersws Res 0. **Mitsubishi Two:** Bettws 8 Berriew Res 2; Four Crosses Res 0 Churchstoke 4; Llansantffraid Res 2 Carno Res 0.

PLACINGS

English Clubs Rugby Championships

SOUTH LANCS/CHESHIRE 2

	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
Manchester Medics	9	8	0	1	8	40
Ormskirk	9	8	1	0	4	38
L'pool Collegiate	9	8	0	1	6	38
Bowdon	9	7	0	2	7	35
Vagabonds	9	5	0	4	5	25
Southport	9	5	0	4	4	24
Oswestry	9	4	1	4	5	23
Port Sunlight	9	4	1	4	5	23
Moore	9	3	1	5	5	19
Orrell	9	3	0	6	4	16
Marple	9	2	0	7	3	11
Dukinfield	9	1	2	6	1	9
Ramsey	9	2	0	7	0	8
Wallasey	9	0	0	9	2	2

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Black Lion	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Penybont Inn	5	4	0	1	20	10	8
Cross Foxes	5	3	2	0	19	11	8
Plas Yn Dinas	5	3	0	2	17	13	6
Top White Lion	5	1	4	0	17	13	6
White Lion	4	1	3	0	13	11	5
Black Lion A	4	2	0	2	14	10	4
Horseshoe	4	2	0	2	12	2	4
Station	5	4	2	2	15	15	4
Railway Tavern	4	1	1	2	11	13	3
Black Horse	5	0	2	3	9	21	2
Bradford Arms	4	0	1	3	8	16	1
Barley Mow	5	0	0	5	4	26	0

Cross Foxes 3, Station 3; Black Horse 3, White Lion Llynclys 3; Plas Yn Dinas 6, Barley Mow 0, Black Lion A 5, Horseshoe 1; Top White Lion 3, Black Lion B 3; Penybont 4, Railway 2.

Shropshire Chess League

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Telepost B	4	3	0	1	13	7	6
Shrewsbury B	4	2	1	1	11	9	5
Ludlow A	4	2	0	2	10.5	9.5	4
Oswestry A	3	2	0	1	8	7	4
Wellington B	4	1	1	2	10	10	3
Newport B	3	1	1	1	7	8	3
Telford B	2	1	1	0	6	4	3
Telepost C	4	0	0	4	4.5	15.5	0

Team Elite battlers hit winning trail

OSWESTRY-based Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) club Team Elite stormed to a terrific result with nine of their best competing at a show with a mix of amateur and semi-professional fighters.

All fighters did extremely well and there were no losses, with six winning their matches while the remaining three received a draw from the judges.

The fighters had all put in some hard training and it really paid off. Unfortunately one of them, Ollie Morris, who was due to make his semi-pro debut, was left disappointed as his opponent pulled out at the last minute.

Elite's coaches deserved plenty of credit for putting in a lot of time to make sure that the team were well prepared when they stepped into the cage.

Team Elite, in fine form, from left: Tom Husbands, Dan Williams, Andy Hunt, Neil Cooke, Chris Catt, Rich Jones and Gareth Jones.

COBRA slide to first defeat at home after a slow start

RUGBY
by John Bridgwater

COBRA suffered their first home loss of the season when they were outgunned 27-0 at the hands of Ruthin to remain in the lower reaches of the Swalec League division one (north).

The Meifod men paid the price for a poor start as they trailed 17-0 after just 12 minutes – and there was realistically no way back after that in an encounter blighted by the windswept conditions.

Although struggling on their travels this term, COBRA could take comfort from winning their previous three home clashes, but Saturday's defeat to their impressive visitors now leaves them third from bottom in the table.

They now have chance to take stock as there is no league action in the next two weeks due to Wales' autumn internationals, although they need to fit in a North Wales Cup clash at home to Bala at some stage. They return to league duty at Pwlhelli on Saturday, November 23.

Ruthin capitalised on their hosts' poor start last week, running in two converted tries with the wind at their backs after outnumbering their rivals out wide, before increasing the lead with a penalty.

Fightback

To their credit, the Llanfair Caereinion side refused to buckle and showed plenty of spirit as they battled to get back into the game, but they left themselves with too much to do.

They had their chances, but struggled to prise open Ruthin in difficult conditions, and succumbed to two more tries, the fourth one coming in the latter stages to earn the visitors a bonus point.

WELSHPOOL eased their basement worries in the Swalec League division three (north) after staging a superb fightback to clinch their first win in the league with a 20-17 success at Benllech.

Boosted by their fine Swalec Bowl victory at Porthmadog the week before, Pool kept up the good work as they pulled off an unlikely success on windswept Anglesey.

They had struggled to get into their stride in a scrappy first hour, and were trailing 17-0, before turning the game on its head in the last 15 minutes.

Prop Ben Astley and No 8 Ryan Goodwin both went over for tries, and fly half Daly Jones kicked 10 points, including two penalties and two conversions, to clinch a timely victory.

The result will now put Pool in good heart for Saturday's home clash with division three rivals Llanidloes in the North Wales Intermediate Cup (2.30pm).

The next league game for the Maesydre side is a trip to Llangollen on Saturday, November 23.

Full-back Sion Wyn Williams (right) is held up by the Ruthin defence, with Frazer Roberts, Alwyn Williams, Wyn Williams, Rhodri Evans and centre Andrew Pryce advancing in support.

Right Royle result for Ladies

AFTER four straight defeats, Oswestry Ladies halted their slump in the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division two with a much needed 4-0 success over Warrington.

The hosts were keen to put matters right in a rainswept affair at Oswestry School, and were soon on the front foot with immediate pressure on the Warrington defence.

This was soon rewarded as a strong cross in from outside the 'D' was tucked into the back of the net by Sarah Lowe on the back post, and this early goal seemed to calm their nerves and they were able to play some good passing hockey.

Warrington had some dangerous players, but the Oswestry defence were well up to keeping them out and their continued pressure was further rewarded in the first half as Jo Woodcock was on hand to tuck home a loose ball in the 'D' to make the score 2-0.

Continued pressure after the break generated a number of further opportunities, including several one-ones with the visiting keeper.

Strong work at the back kept Warrington from fashioning any real goalscoring opportunities while, at the other end, continued determination in attack was rewarded with two further goals from Tracey Royle in the second half to secure a morale boosting victory.

The pleasing performance should give Oswestry confidence in future matches, with the side carving out a number of attacking opportunities while remaining strong at the back with keeper Liz Killen not touching the ball during the match.

Buoyed by the win, they will hope to continue this form when they take on Chester at Oswestry School on Saturday.

PLACINGS

Cheshire League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lymm Ladies 2	8	5	2	1	20	8	17
Deeside Ramb II	7	5	1	1	21	10	16
Golborne	8	4	3	1	12	5	15
Alderley Edge II	8	4	2	2	19	9	14
Sale II	8	4	1	3	18	16	13
Alderley Edge III	8	4	1	3	14	13	13
Warrington	8	3	3	2	9	13	12
Wilmslow II	7	2	2	3	10	15	8
Macc /Bolli II	8	2	2	4	22	29	8
Oswestry	8	2	1	5	11	16	7
Crewe Vagrants II	8	1	2	5	15	23	5
Chester III	8	0	2	6	7	21	2

Mission accomplished for tennis aces

BOTH the second and third mixed teams of Oswestry Tennis Club embarked on successful missions with fine victories despite the very wet weather, ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

The second mixed team travelled to Shrewsbury to play against Woodfield Tennis Club's third team and torrential rainfall an hour before the match was due to start seriously threatened the fixture.

However, with Woodfield having already had so many rain postponements this autumn season, it was decided to persevere and the decision proved to be the correct one as the rain was confined to just a burst of 20 minutes of play.

The Oswestry team, captained by Gary Edwards who partnered Elspeth Cumpston, made a sluggish start, losing the first set of their opening rubber 3-6 in the rain but came back strongly, taking the second set 6-3 and then the deciding third-set tie-break to take the rubber.

The opening rubber for the Oswestry second pair of Matt Grice and Linda Clark, who was playing up from the third team, followed a similar pattern with them also losing the opening set 2-6 but then winning the second set 6-4 and then taking the deciding third set tie-break to give Oswestry a 2-0 lead after the opening rubbers.

Resilience

Edwards and Cumpston made short work of the Woodfield second pairing in their reverse rubber beating them 6-1, 6-3 with Edwards closing out the rubber with a service ace at match point.

Grice and Clark showed great form and resilience as a pairing that had never played together before and took the opening set of their reverse rubber against a strong Woodfield first pairing 6-4 but lost the second set 4-6 and were finally broken down in the third set deciding tie-break to lose the rubber.

Oswestry took seven of the available eight points to bring their season back on track having won two of their four matches played with two matches remaining.

The club's third team travelled to Baschurch for their penultimate fixture of the season and came away with their first outright win of the season also claiming seven points from the fixture.

In the first-round rubbers both pairs were victorious. The first pair of captain Carol Slater partnering Martin Anderson won in straight sets 7-6, 6-2 against the opposing first pair and maintained their 100 per cent record as a partnership while the second pair of Linda Davies and Jamie Chaplin, both playing for the first time this season, also won in straight sets 6-4, 6-4 to give the team took a 2-0 lead going into the reverse rubbers.

These proved a different story with Slater and Anderson comfortably taking the first set 6-4 before having to endure a second set tie break which they narrowly lost 6-7 and then a third set deciding tie break which they took with ease 10-6 (1-0).

Davies and Chaplin fought gamely and gave a good account of themselves against the Baschurch first pair but were just edged out in straight sets 4-6, 4-6.

Club members are reminded that this year's annual general meeting will be held in the clubhouse on Wednesday, November 20, at 7.30pm.

Richards on target with vital strike for Welshpool

WELSHPOOL Town picked up a valuable three points to boost their prospects in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Builth Wells at Maesydre, ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

Gareth Watkins gave the Lilywhites the lead and, after the Spa men had levelled, Alistair Richards fired the winner when latching on to a rebound after a penalty from new signing Tom Coulson had been saved.

Victory was the perfect riposte after the midweek 1-0 loss to local rivals **WATERLOO ROVERS** who themselves saw their winning streak ended with a 2-1 reverse at Aberaeron.

Rovers had enough chances to have returned with more to show for their efforts, but the hosts survived a spell of late pressure.

An own goal from Rhodri Edwards following a defensive mix-up gave the Welshpool visitors the lead, but Aberaeron hit back to take the spoils with a goal in each half from Gareth Evans. Rovers slipped to fifth in the table.

BERRIEW maintained their title pursuit with a rousing 6-1 win at home to Bow Street, all the goals coming in the second half after the visitors had led at the break.

Christian Webster sparked the fightback with a brace, and Rhydian Morris also found the net before a hat-trick from Elliot Jones completed a win that keeps the hosts in third, three points off the pace.

Pounced

LLANFAIR UNITED in fourth proved too strong for rock-bottom Dolgellau as they ran out 10-0 winners, Chris Gethin leading the way with a hat-trick. Geraint Jones and Paul Griffiths both weighed in with braces while Matthew Spencer and substitute Ashley Davies also found the net along with an own goal.

Jones opened the floodgates with a well-placed shot from the edge of the area on 11 minutes and Gethin pounced on a misplaced pass back to make it 2-0 seven minutes later.

Spencer added a third when tapping in a low driven cross from Gethin, who scored his second on 38 minutes when firing low into the corner from 18 yards.

Two minutes later, Jones was fouled in the area and Gethin grabbed his hat-trick goal from the penalty spot.

After the break, Griffiths made it six with a well taken individual goal after 50 minutes and Davies joined the spree with a well-placed header.

An own goal made it eight before Jones added No.9 and Griffiths completed the mauling with a long-range strike.

FOUR CROSSES slumped 4-1 at high-riding Carno, while title-chasing Llandrindod Wells maintained their winning start to the campaign with a comfortable 5-0 success at Tywyn Bryncrug.

MONTGOMERY were downed 3-0 at Aberystwyth University who were two goals to the good at half time through Tom Poulton and Alex Jenkins after his penalty had been saved, before Matthew Hunton wrapped up the points late on.

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OSWESTRY Sports Desk 01952 241473 www.oswestrychronicle.com

Hockey's a no-go for men again

OSWESTRY hockey players made it an unwanted hat-trick when they had another game postponed in the North Wales Mens League.

It has been a frustrating start to the campaign for the border club with Northop Hall becoming the latest side to call off after failing to raise a side, meaning three matches have already been called off.

Having played just twice this season, with one win and one defeat, Oswestry are due to get back to action when they host Aberystwyth University on Sunday.

OSWESTRY LADIES ended their four match losing streak in the Cheshire Hockey league division with a morale-boosting 4-0 home success over Warrington.

Sarah Lowe put them on course for much needed points with the opener, Jo Woodcock doubling the lead before the break, while two second half goals from Tracey Royle settled it.

Buoyed by the win, Oswestry will hope to continue this form when they take on bottom club Chester at Oswestry School on Saturday.

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Eagles seek home help

MID-table Oswestry aim to get back to winning ways on Saturday when they host rock bottom Wallasey in rugby's South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

Looking to consolidate their seventh place, the Eagles hope for a tonic after slipping to a 39-14 loss at high flying Manchester Medics last week.

OSWESTRY II are up to fifth in the North West League division four (south) with a 33-10 home success against lowly Northwich III. They look to keep up the good work away to Wilmslow IV this Saturday.

Charity gets Pool booster

WELSHPOOL'S stars from yesteryear overcame their Newtown counterparts 4-2 in a special derby at Latham Park – but the real winner was charity with more than £1,000 raised for Marie Curie.

In a match that saw players from the last three decades reunite, former Man City and Shrewsbury's Carl Griffiths scoring twice, with youngster Andrew Watkins also netting a brace. Nigel Pryce replied with a two fine strikes for Newtown.

TNS target a year unbeaten at home

THE New Saints set their sights on another Park Hall shutout as they bid to maintain their early challenge in the Welsh Premier in Friday night's clash with Rhyl (7.45pm).

The defending champions have been in miserly form at home this season, having not conceded a goal in their previous five league outings, while netting 22 goals in the process.

And they will be chasing six of the best against the Seasiders whom they have already defeated 2-0 away this season as they look to stay hard on the heels of the pacesetters.

"Friday's a big game for us, historically matches against Rhyl are always good occasions, and we want to maintain our consistent form at home," said head coach Carl Darlington.

"As well as not conceding a goal at home this season, which is a great effort, there's extra incentive to get a good result as it will mean that we have gone 12 months unbeaten at home."

Despite their fine form, TNS lost pole position last weekend after their trip to Carmarthen Town was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, while rivals Airbus UK capitalised with a 2-0 home win over Prestatyn to move three points clear.

With Airbus also playing on Friday night at Aberystwyth Town, the Saints will be anxious to maintain their invincible home form on their artificial surface to ensure they stay in striking distance of the Wingmakers.

"We don't want Airbus to get any more daylight on us, so we want to stay right behind them and make sure we capitalise if they slip up," added Darlington.

"Even now, it's looking like a two horse race for the title, you can't rule out Carmarthen who are third, but it looks to be between us and Airbus."

Winger Ryan Fraughan is again missing with a groin injury, but Sam Finley is pushing for a place in the starting line-up and defender Connall Rawlinson is back training after suffering a foot injury.

TNS go into the clash in good heart having lost just once in 11 league outings this season, while they have fared well against Rhyl in past meetings.

The last time the sides met at Park Hall in the league was back in November 2009 when the Saints ran out convincing 4-0 winners.

Ladies Cup aim

AFTER their penalty shootout win at Rounds Town, The New Saints Ladies have been drawn at home to Sandiacre Town in the first round proper of the Womens FA Cup.

The Saints progressed through the third qualifying round on spot kicks after their tie in Northamptonshire had finished 3-3 following extra time.

And their reward is now a tie against Nottingham side Sandiacre, of the East Midlands League premier division, at Park Hall on Sunday, December 1.

Against Rounds, Jaime Duggan gave the Saints a 16th minute lead, but the visitors went 3-1 up. Rounds rallied with Lisa Lee (72) and Karen Britchford (78) levelling matters and Saints won after a shoot-out.

LLANFAIR LOOK TO SINK GUILS IN CUP

by John Bridgwater

BUOYANT Llanfair United will be going all out to pull off a shock when they welcome Guilsfield on Saturday in the standout local tie in the second round of the Welsh Cup.

Despite playing a level below in the Spar Mid Wales League division one, Llanfair's form this season suggests they can prove a handful for their Cymru Alliance visitors on their own soil.

They have lost just twice in 11 league games this term, and boss Rhys Stephens is relishing the challenge of the task ahead in the prestigious cup competition.

Llanfair are no strangers to cup shocks against Cymru Alliance opposition, having defeated Caersws in the Central Wales Cup last season, while losing narrowly to Rhayader Town in the following round.

"We beat Caersws and were very competitive against Rhayader, and hopefully we can count on that experience for Saturday's game," said Stephens.

Respect

"This is the furthest we have been in the Welsh Cup, we've got through three rounds to be where we are and we'll be giving it our best shot. Guilsfield should beat us, they are an established club in the league above. We'd love to be in their position in a couple of years time."

Steve Andrew and Dan Jones are both long term absentees through injury for the home side while Ryan Davies is a doubt through illness.

Guilsfield go into the tie as firm favourites, but they needed extra time before seeing off another Spar Mid Wales League side, Machynlleth, 6-1 in the previous round.

Apart from their 3-1 loss to Llanrhaeadr, Matt Burton's side have proved tough to beat in the last couple of months, earning a hard-fought 1-1 draw at rainswept Llandudno in the Cymru Alliance last weekend.

Experienced striker Danny Barton is their dangerman up front, having scored 14 league goals this season while also netting a hat-trick in their win against Mach in the last round.

Morda hold race night

MORDA United are saddling for a race night at their Weston Road Club on Saturday, November 30. The event starts at 4.30pm and admission is free, while races can be sponsored for £20 and jockeys and horses cost £2.

Hafren cyclists are gearing up for the winter

Riding high – Hafren Cycling Club members father and son Max and Paul Bufton on the Foxley Estate course

WITH the winter months approaching, many of the Hafren CC members are leaving their road bikes in the garage in favor of cyclo-cross.

With most of the Welsh league based in north and south Wales, the Hafren club is thrilled to be hosting a Mid-Wales race on Sunday 17th November on the Trehafren Fields, Newtown which will utilises Newtown AFC's Latham Park as its HQ as it stages round 7 of the series.

Race organiser, Paul Bufton commented, "They are a really good way to get into the sport of cycling with the traffic free circuits. Usually set around public parks and sports fields, they are a fantastic way of improving your fitness and bike handling."

In preparation for the race, 7 members for the Hafren club headed off to the Foxley Estate near Hereford for round 3 of the series to see what it was all about. In the junior race, Hafren's youngest member, Max Bufton (7 yrs old) lined up against 24 other riders in his second race and managed a great 9th place overall.

Next up was the senior race with first timers Chris Roberts, Glyn Jones, Des Pugh and Neil Vose all lining up alongside Hafren's cross regulars Paul Bufton and Nick Huband and the other 107 riders. Despite many dropping out of the race, all the Hafren boys were still in the mix as the final lap bell rang.

Chris Roberts continued his strong end-of-season form from the time trial season, crossing the line first out of the Hafren contingent, closely followed by Paul Bufton with the pair 52nd and 65th respectively.

Anyone wishing more information about the race, contact Paul Bufton on 07717 428295.

A bumper weekend of sport at Maesydre

MAESYDRE promises to be a busy place on Saturday afternoon with both Welshpool's football clubs due to be at home – as well as the town's rugby club.

Waterloo Rovers, having slipped to fifth in the Spar Mid Wales League division one after last week's 2-1 defeat at Aberaeron, will he hoping to make a swift riposte when they host Llansantffraid Village.

Buoyed by last week's win against Builth Wells, Maesydre neighbours Welshpool Town look nailed-on for three points at home to rock bottom Dolgellau on Saturday.

Berriew, who fired six goals against Bow Street last weekend, look to maintain the pressure at the top of the table when they visit Aberystwyth University

Montgomery entertain Four Crosses as both sides look to get back on track after recent setbacks, while lowly Dyffryn Banw are at home to leaders Carno.

Scrappy

Banw had been due to face FC Nomads of Connahs Quay in the FAW Trophy, but the tie has been postponed as their opponents are in Welsh Cup action.

Meanwhile, Welshpool's rugby players will be looking for a third win on the bounce when they host Powys rivals Llanidloes in the North Wales Intermediate Cup (2.30).

The Maesydre side have revived their fortunes with two fine away wins, first at Porthmadog to keep their flag flying in the Swalec Bowl, then breaking their duck in the Swalec League division two (north) after prevailing 20-17 at windswept Benllech last Saturday.

They had struggled to get into their stride in a scrappy first hour, and were trailing 17-0, before turning the game on its head with two tries in the last 15 minutes.

COBRA, who suffered their first home defeat of the season in division one (north) when ending up well beaten 27-0 to Ruthin, have chance to take stock as they are without any league action this weekend.

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